FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PRESIDENT ON ELECTION DECISIONS, TIMETABLE

PY240053 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Speech by President Reynado Bignone on the occasion of receiving Christmas and year-end greetings from government officials and other dignitaries at Government House in Buenos Aires on 23 December -- recorded]

[Excerpt] Thank you all once again for being here together.

If we were to describe this coming year of 1983 in advance we would have to say that it will be marked by political events -- something which is in no way bad because politics are the channel for coexistence -- I would like to take advantage of your patience, of the fact that the year is almost over, of having practically the entire government gathered here, and of the presence of his reverend eminence, the cardinal primate of Argentina, to make some political announcements. I have chosen this occasion to do so because more than anything else these announcements are a commitment of the government itself and thus I want to make them in the presence of all the members of the government.

After an entire afternoon of work with the Interior Ministry team yesterday and after the meeting today with the military junta, I can now promise, on behalf of the national government, that it will release the full electoral timetable in February 1983. The drafts are sufficiently precise to allow us to make this commitment. An earlier date has not been set because it is possible that all these drafts will require necessary refining and also because there are still talks to be held with the most interested parties, that is, the leaders of political parties. During the time we have left until February, we will carry out these tasks, and I promise -- I repeat -- on behalf of the national government, that the full electoral timetable will be released in February.

As anyone can imagine, the main hallmark of this timetable is the date of the elections. About this I can make a concrete announcement. I cannot give the exact date of the elections, but I can say that they will be held on a single day. This is the decision we have reached: That elections will be held simultaneously and that the electoral timetable which we will announce in February will set the date for the elections we Argentines will hold not later than the first Sunday of November. I repeat: These are the concrete announcements concerning the electoral timetable which will be disclosed in full in February, after the necessary adjustments to it are made.

There is another political measure designated to facilitate the adjustment of this timetable. The government has decided to amend a portion of the law for the organization of political parties which this very government has issued. Thus, on 30 March 1983 the political parties will be able to submit a minimum list of members necessary to organize themselves as political parties. As you know, Article 72 of the above-mentioned law provided for a 6-month period for affiliation. This 6-month period was to be counted from the moment the appropriate electoral judge delivered to the party overseers the affiliation cards which would allow each party to begin its organization.

This opened the possibility that this period could be extended by delays in the delivery of the cards. Thus, the government has decided to set 30 March as the date from which the political parties could submit a minimum list of members necessary. Of course, this does not mean that 30 March is the deadline, those who are not ready by that date can go on with their affiliation tasks, but those who already have the minimum number of members necessary will be able to submit their lists.

With all this we hope to really strengthen our commitments and to provide concrete information which will allow the parties to carry out their internal tasks as they are doing now. This information includes the date from which the electoral timetable can really take shape. At the risk of being repetitive I would like to say once again that I have made, on behalf of the national government, the commitment to release this electoral timetable in full in February of next year.

I would like you to forgive me for having taken advantage of these circumstances which are not political to make political announcements, but I allowed myself to do so for two reasons, reasons which I have already mentioned: First, that the coming year will happily be marked by political events, and second, because the government is all gathered here and even the cardinal primate of Argentina is present. Thus, what I have said has become a commitment for the government.

Thank you again, gentlemen, for your kind greetings. Thank you for your efforts, thank you for the faith with which all of you have worked to take this Argentina of ours along the course we have set for it. My best wishes to you all.

31 DECEMBER SET AS VOTER LIST CLOSING DATE

PY241332 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0125 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (NA) -- The president of the nation has approved and enforced Law 22,968, which establishes that the voter lists to be used in the forthcoming elections will be closed on 31 December, as has already been reported by the interior ministry. The law, which was reviewed by the Legislative Advisory Council, consists of one substantive article and one concerning procedures which states:

"For the purpose of the next election and for one time only, provisional lists of voters will be prepared on the basis of electoral registration cards which make up the third subdivision of the district registration office [passage as received] and in keeping with records available as of 31 December 1982."

In its preamble, the law states that "the insitutuionalization process being undertaken by the national government requires, under the present circumstances, exceptional measures."

The law adds that "the complex task of updating voter registration files make it necessary to modify the deadline established by the national electoral law for the completion of voter lists."

Therefore, those voters who have not reported a change of residence before 31 December will have to vote in the district in which they were listed earlier and those who are 18 [after 31 December 1982] will not be allowed to vote.

NAVY SOURCE DENIES DISAGREEMENT ON ELECTIONS

PY232110 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1423 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (NA) -- A high-ranking navy source has stated that "a change of government in the current circumstances would almost mean national suicide." The source stated that "this is not a personal opinion; it is the opinion of the navy."

The navy officer thus denied to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS the rumors which were being circulated yesterday on the alleged disagreements within the armed forces and between the military junta and the government. He admitted that "the social situation is a matter of concern and that the cooperation of all sectors is necessary."

Agreeing with statements made by a high-ranking member of the army, the navy source reiterated that there should be no doubt that the institutionalization process will be concluded within the scheduled term. He pointed out that "the country's institutionalization is the political will of the three branches of the armed forces."

ARMY SOURCE CLAIMS UNITY EXISTS ON ISSUES

PY232143 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1152 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (NA) -- A high-ranking army source has categorically denied that there are disagreements within the military junta or between the junta and President Bignone. However, the source warned that "the deepening of conflicts between the armed forces and the civilian sector" poses "the threat of a coup." The military chief said that "ultimately" the Multiparty Group is responsible for the incidents of 16 December and that what happened at Plaza de Mayo "was perpetrated by the Montoneros." He noted that attacks against the armed forces threaten an institutional solution and "promote a coup."

The military officer added that these attacks also create the proper atmosphere "for someone who believes that we are unable to handle this problem to appear on the scene," and he said that this was a "very worrisome possibility."

Moreover, he denied that the army had questioned the government's economic policy and he asserted that "there is no disagreement on Wehbe's administration."

The military source harshly criticized the attitude of outgoing Federal Judge Pedro Narvaiz by noting that "he is wrong, he is not being realistic." The source added that the army will not supply information on those who fought against subversion.

In a meeting with journalists during which he discussed extensively the plan for national accord proposed by the military junta, the military officer noted that "the national accord plan is beyond any present or future commitment, pact, imposition and/or compromise."

Regarding the Multiparty Group protest march, he said that "it helped us to be more united since we realized that they are against us." He added: "What happened at Plaza de Mayo was a Montonero action. Politicians will leave us alone again." He also warned: "A coup is only a step away from what happened the other day. The ghosts are looming over the country."

He further stated: "We have information about activist groups that are meeting and organizing themselves abroad." But he noted: "We are on guard." He said, however, that "we do not want to take advantage of the ghost of subversion."

About disagreements that may arise between the armed forces and the civilian sector, he said that "it should not be the armed forces versus civilians, but rather the armed forces plus civilians against violent organizations." He noted: "The only way to guarantee an institutional solution is through the unity of the armed forces."

Regarding the resignation submitted by Federal Judge Pedro Narvaiz, he said that the judge had the necessary resources to resort to the Supreme Court, but that he "should not have started to fight against us through newspapers; this is unethical." Being somewhat ironic, the military officer said that the federal judge had been appointed by the military process and had acted for 5 years without issuing any objections "and suddenly he raises some sensitive issues and leaves the country." The source added: "The list he requested will not be published because it will be kept secret to protect those who struggled against subversion."

He reasserted that "there is no conflict of powers. We must safeguard the soldiers who fought against subversion. This has been properly established."

Regarding the issue of missing persons, the source said that a report on this issue "is being drafted" and that it is still undecided when it will be disclosed. He noted: "For the time being there is no plan to give any specific details on any actions that have been carried out against subversion." He added that the issue "of the so-called missing persons" will be discussed specifically in the report and supporting evidence will be given.

During his talk with reporters, the military leader discussed the previous stages of the process by noting that "we dislike assuming the responsibility of previous military juntas, but in practice we must."

Regarding the bodies of soldiers killed in the Malvinas, he said: We are working with the International Red Cross so that Great Britain will uphold the Geneva Convention. He added that in addition we are in contact with those relatives involved so that they may decide whether to leave the bodies on the Malvinas or bring them back home.

Talking extensively about the national accord plan, the source said that through it the armed forces are trying to achieve "a dialogue between the government and representatives of the many national sectors." He added that the "opinions of these leaders will be listened to, will be evaluated, analyzed and will be elements used in judgments leading to future government actions."

INTERIOR MINISTER DISCUSSES POLITICAL TOPICS

PY241824 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Interior Minister Gen Llamil Reston has stated that there is no urgency in calling political leaders to a new round of talks. He added that those government officials who want to engage in political activities will have to resign their posts by next February.

On announcing the release of prisoners held at the disposal of the executive branch, General Reston said there will be no detainees in that status by the end of next year.

GOVERNMENT COMMUTES SENTENCES OF 82 SUBVERSIVES

PY232218 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2205 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (DYN) -- The Argentine Government today commuted the sentences of 82 persons sentenced by special standing court martials for subversive crimes and has ordered their "immediate release."

This measure was ordered by Decree 1610, issued today "as a sign of the broader and more generous spirit with which the authorities of the process of national reorganization are handling the problems stemming from the struggle against terrorist subversion."

FOREIGN MINISTRY ON SEIZED ARMS SHIPMENT TO IRAN

PY232328 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2055 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (NA) -- The Argentine Defense Ministry has reportedly issued a resolution authorizing the sale to Iran of the shipment of arms seized at Madrid airport, according to reliable sources. However, it has been impossible to confirm the date this resolution was issued because of the secrecy prevailing at the Defense Ministry.

Meanwhile, Oscar Fernandez Suarez, official spokesman of the Argentine Foreign Ministry, answered questions on the subject by saying that "in many cases the Foreign Ministry merely countersigns notes issued by other state organizations."

He added that "it is obvious that the Foreign Ministry does not market any of the products manufactured in the country."

He indicated that "specifically concerning the case at hand, the arms could be defensive weapons purchased some time ago by a government with which we have normal relations."

He emphasized that "the Foreign Ministry has nothing to do with the ways and means used to ship these goods." He went on to explain that "given compliance with certain regulations no nation is precluded from purchasing defensive weapons in Argentina."

The shipment seized in Madrid was being carried by an Aerolineas Argentinas airliner.

FUELING OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT COMPLETED

PY241539 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1137 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Cordoba, 24 Dec (DYN) -- Fueling of the Embalse Atomic Plant, which is scheduled to begin operations in March 1983, has been completed.

Carlos Castro Madero, chairman of the National Atomic Energy Commission, and Governor Ruben Pellanda attended at the last minute yesterday the filling of the reactor's core with the 4,560 elements of uranium dioxide housed in zircaloy tubes that make up the nuclear fuel.

The work to put this plant into operation begins at the end of this step. This is the second plant run by nuclear energy in the country. It is scheduled to reach the "critical point" by March 1983. This atomic plant will provide the national electric network with 600 of the 943 megawatts that will then be supplied by the atomic plants.

EMBASSY: NO NICARAGUANS WORKING FOR GOVERNMENT

PY231325 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] The Nicaraguan Embassy has categorically denied remarks that have been made by the Italian drug trafficker and terrorist, (Stefano delle Chiae). The communique, which was released during the afternoon [as heard], states that there are no Nicaraguans staying at La Gloria Hotel, nor are there any Nicaraguans in Bolivia, who are cooperating with the Bolivian Government.

The communique states: The newspaper HOY of this city on page 8 of its 22 December issue has published an ANSA cable containing statements made by (Stefano delle Chiae). He states that 23 Nicaraguans are currently staying at La Gloria Hotel in La Paz.

Today we emphatically state that what has been said by this gentleman is absolutely false and [word indistinct]. We firmly and decidedly reject those statements and we point out that they are a part of a campaign being carried out by those who intend to isolate and attack our country.

Nicaragua reaffirms its full respect for the principles of sovereignty, self-determination of peoples and nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries. At the same time we reaffirm our policy of peace and mutual respect for all countries throughout the world.

It concludes by saying that the Nicaraguan Embassy thanks the Bolivian people for all the courtesies it has received and it greets the Bolivian people and their democratic government at this Christmas time and wishes them a happy New Year.

ARMY COMMANDER DISCHARGES 16 OFFICERS

PY232158 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Fifteen [as heard] leaders and officers have been discharged from the army. Here is the measure made known by the Army General Staff's public relations department yesterday:

Army Order of the Day No 08/82. Subject: Disclosure of resolution passed by the armed forces' Supreme Military Court.

Antecedents: Whereas continuity and stability -- which are the main pillars of the armed forces of the nation -- are based on the main principles of military discipline, morale and honor, principles that can neither be altered nor disregarded without endangering the very existence of the armed forces;

Whereas in this period of major importance for and of responsibility in institutional life, the national army -- as a member of the armed forces -- is firmly determined to recover its prestige and honor, which were seriously hurt in the past few years;

Whereas some army generals, leaders and officers have voluntarily strayed from this line of conduct and become involved in serious events which, in addition to being legally punishable public crimes, have publicly smeared the institution's national and international image by violating its basic principles and attempting to affect its stability and continuity;

Whereas the armed forces' Supreme Military Court has the unavoidable duty of adopting appropriate measures to secure and guarantee a prompt return to full enforcement of moral and professional values;

The army commanding general resolves to discharge the following officers from the army: Maj Gen Luis Garcia Meza Tejada, Brig Gen Hugo Echevarria (Tornios), Brig Gen Fernando Canedo Arce, Col Luis Arce Gomez, Col Freddy Quiroga Reyes, Infantry Col Juan Solis Castanon, Lt Col Carlos Zapata (Cabeza), Infantry Col Angel Garcia Ricaldi, Infantry Maj Luis Cossio (Viruez), Carabineros Maj Javier Hinojosa (Valdes), Maj Ciro Penaranda Garcia, Infantry Capt Luis (Uriden) Rivadeneira, Cavalry Capt Carlos (Viero) Larrea, Carabineros Capt Carlos Helguera Larrea, Infantry Capt Tito Montano (Versu), Infantry Capt Ivan Larrea (Delvoi).

The sea belongs to us by right. It is our duty to recover it.

FORMER PRESIDENT VILDOSO CALDERON RETIRED

PY241157 Paris AFP in Spanish 2346 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Excerpts] La Paz, 23 Dec (AFP) -- It was reported here today that former Bolivian President Gen Guido Vildoso Calderon has been placed on active reserve status, in keeping with military regulations. At the same time it was announced that Col Faustino Rico Toro, former interior minister under the short-lived administration of Gen Juan Pereda Asbun (1978), and the leader of the hardliners within the armed forces, has been appointed military attache in Spain.

BRIEFS

HUNGARY TO RESUME AID -- According to talks held between Gabor Badon-Fai, Hungarian charge d'affaires, and Zenon Barrientos, Bolivian minister of agriculture, livestock and campesino affairs, the Hungarian Government is willing to implement the project to establish an agrarian university in Bolivia and resume its aid to the Bolivian wheat program. [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 25 Nov 82 PY]

TAIWAN AID -- During a meeting held between Health Minister Mario Argandona Yanez and Taiwanese Ambassador Wu Tsu-yu the two countries verbally agreed to cooperate for the eradication of Malaria in Bolivia. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 28 Nov 82 p 9 PY]

IDB LOAN GRANTED -- The IDB, during its last meeting of the year, granted a loan of $134 million to Bolivia. The loan will be used in exploring for and exploiting liquid hydrocarbons in the country, and it will help to strengthen the activities carried out by Government Oil Deposits. [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Dec 82 PY]

FOREIGN DEBT BALANCE -- The Central Bank has reported that the balance of Bolivia's foreign debt on 30 June 1982 amounted to $2,521,440,000 out of the $3,816,559,000 contracted by that date. The balance of the foreign debt on 31 December 1981 was $2,542,014,000, which means that over $20 million were paid out as amortization duirng the first half of 1982. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 1 Dec 82 p 1 PY]

AERONAUTICS UNDER SECRETARY RESIGNS -- Gen Oscar Villa, minister of aeronautics, has accepted the resignation of Jose Saavedra Banzer, under secretary of aeronautics. [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 15 Dec 82 PY]

NEWSPAPER REAPPEARS -- The newspaper PRENSA, in tabloid format, will again appear on Bolivian newstands as of today. The controversial newspaper, which was closed down in August 1971 by the Banzer dictatorship, is being published by the press union of La Paz. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Dec 82 PY]

PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO TO TRAVEL TO JAPAN, PRC

PY252214 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] President Joao Figueiredo has accepted invitations extended by the governments of the PRC and Japan to visit those countries next year. This information was made public yesterday by presidential spokesman Carlos Atila. President Figueiredo will go to Foz do Iguacu in January to meet Argentina's President Bignone there.

The trip to the PRC should be an essentially political visit while the trip to Japan will have economic connotations. Since the Geisel government Brazil has joined a series of undertakings with Japan, and the Japanese banks are among Brazil's largest creditors, as noted by journalist Osvaldo Peralva. The as yet scant commercial relations with the PRC may well receive an impetus because of similar positions held by the Brazilians and Chinese on international questions and of the two countries' interest in attaining greater identification with the Third World.

SPOKESMAN DENIES RUMORS OF CABINET RESHUFFLE

PY222349 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 22 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] Brasilia (DAILY POST) -- Carlos Atila, the presidential spokesman, Tuesday denied reports that a major cabinet shuffle was in the works. "President Figueiredo is not considering any changes in his cabinet at this moment," Atila told reporters.

Over the past several days there have been insistent rumors that several important ministerial figures were on their way out. Among some of the names which at one time or the other have been mentioned are: Planning Minister Antonio Delfim Netto, Finance Minister Ernane Galveas and Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals.

SEIZED DOCUMENTS REVEAL COMMUNIST PROGRAM

PY240058 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Dec 82 p 4

[Text] During the national meeting of the Brazilian Communist Party [PCB] on 13 December in Sao Paulo, when the participants were detained by the Federal Police, the party was already in an advanced stage of discussion of the PCB legalization process. The PCB was not only preparing the document required by the current legislation, but it was also trying to adapt its internal structure to that requirement -- the district committees which have existed for almost 60 years, for example, will now be called directorates, and the whole communist vocabulary will be adapted to the standards presumably accepted by the Brazilian Electoral Court.

Among the documents seized by the Federal Police during the meeting (7th PCB congress, according to the police report; study seminar, according to the persons detained there and later released), there are manifesto, program and statute proposals submitted to the meeting by the PCB board for a future request for legal registration of the organization.

Neither the manifesto nor the program uses the traditional and orthodox formulas of the international communist jargon, such as "Marxism-Leninism," "democratic centralism," "proletarian internationalism" or "dictatorship of the proletariat."

On the contrary, these documents express the PCB's concern over the party's inclusion in national life, beginning with the statement -- included in the manifesto -- that in the "history of Brazilian society, the communists represent the opposite of any foreign [exotica] political force: We laid profound roots in Brazil's political development and cultural profile."

The statutes were also limited to the model established by the current electoral law without any important changes in the rules which guide the various parties' internal life.

In the introduction to the proposed program, the PCB declares itself open to all legally recognized citizens who may feel that "socialism -- the organization of society in which political democracy is achieved through an economic and social democracy -- is a historically viable and politically desirable project" (this vague formula disregards the theory of "dictatorship of the proletariat," or the prevalence of one social class over the others);

Open to those who "accept the social theory founded by Marx, and later developed by Lenin, as a method of analysis of reality" (here, in addition to avoiding the use of the term "Marxism-Leninism," the document restricts that theory to a "method of analysis," and no longer to taking it as a guide for practical action as in the past);

Open to those who "are committed to the defense of democratic values -- including, naturally, the fundamental rights of man, the representative institutions of popular sovereignty and political and ideological pluralism -- as a premise of political action" (on this point, the many party systems replace the old model of the single party regime, an aspect always condemned by the adversaries of the communists);

And open to those who "will be engaged in seeking substantial changes in national life."

The document then states that the Brazilian communists "make up an autononous national party, with no ties with any other political organization, whether national or international, but which shows solidarity with all universal movements affirming the working classes."

It adds that "the democratic reorganization of our society" is "the historical task which is today given to the living forces of the nation."

According to the program presented by the communists, "the most effective instrument to achieve this proposal is the call for a national constituent assembly, freely elected in an action preceded by total freedom of political expression and organization and which is sovereign in its deliberations and decisions."

COUNTRY WANTS DEBT RENEWED PLUS ADDITIONAL FUNDS

PY232246 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Dec 82 p 16

[By special correspondent George Vidor]

[Excerpt] New York -- Yesterday Brazilian economic officials submitted to representatives of 125 foreign banks, which hold nearly 90 percent of Brazil's foreign debt, a 4-item plan which would allow the country to fulfill its foreign commitments in 1983. What this plan really involves is a renewal of all the loans due next year plus additional funds to pay interest. Brazil is asking the banks for $9.6 billion and wants to amortize only $1.2 billion of the short-term loans contracted in 1982 which are due in 1983.

The meeting was held at the Plaza Hotel and it lasted less than 2 hours. The bankers created several commissions to study and negotiate each one of the four items of Brazil's plan. Almost all of the 40 banks, which gave Brazil a short-term jumbo loan which the country promised to pay back in 1983, are represented on the commissions. The names were proposed by Brazilian Central Bank President Carlos Langoni during the meeting. The idea was that each commission would be made up of only five bankers. However, the number increased considerably because many banks asked to be included. This morning Langoni will meet with the coordinators of each commission at the Banco do Brasil branch in New York.

Finance Minister Ernane Galveas said that the Brazilian Government will send a telex as soon as possible to all the banks which participated in the meeting providing a detailed report of the Brazilian proposal and asking everyone to see whether they can answer before the end of the year.

This is the 4-item plan which Carlos Langoni submitted to the bankers:

1. New loans: The nation needs $4.4 billion in new loans. The banks will receive a list naming the corporations that will receive these loans, the amounts involved and the terms of payment of each loan. The terms of payment of the overall loan would be the same as those established for the amortization of the debt in 1983.

2. Amortization of $4 billion due in 1983: The Central Bank is asking the banks to renew all these loans for another period of 8 years (the grace period, that is, the period during which only interest and not amortization is paid, would be 2 and 1/2 years) at market interest rates. The legal documents for the renewal of this debt are being drawn up, and if the banks believe that the guarantees are not sufficient, Brazil promises to strengthen guarantees or change the enterprises that will ultimately receive the loans.

3. Short-term debt: This debt reportedly amounts to $8.8 billion and is tied to foreign trade operations. The corporations responsible for this debt in Brazil are reporting the short-term lines of credit they hold to the Central Bank. The Central Bank will request the renewal of all these lines of credit.

4. Credit for banks: The Central Bank has asked the bankers to renew the lines of credit to Brazilian banks operating abroad, bringing them, if possible, to the levels at 30 June 1982, that is, approximately $10 billion.

Planning Minister Delfim Netto said that if the bankers do not renew the loans as the nation requested, Brazil will not stop paying its debts. "How?" the journalists asked. "Just paying," the minister answered.

Gets $546-Million IMF Loan

PY231332 Sao Paulo Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Excerpt] The IMF has approved a request made by the Brazilian Government and has granted it a $546-million loan to compensate for losses in exports. This loan was requested a long time before resorting to the IMF and it has nothing to do with the $4.5-billion loan that will be granted to Brazil over a period of 3 years. The $546-million loan will be released through the organization's financing and compensation fund.

GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZES 150 EXILES TO RETURN

PY242129 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Graciela Contreras' report from Government House]

[Text] As of today, 150 exiles will be allowed to return to Chile in keeping with a decision made by the president of the republic. This was reported a few minutes ago by the interior under secretary at the Interior Ministry, located at Government House. Here are the interior under secretary's words in this regard.

[Begin recording] [Words indistinct] in order not to extend it any further, and in keeping with what was previously stated by his excellency the president of the republic, has resolved to authorize the return of approximately 150 Chilean exiles to the country as of today. The pertinent list [of persons who have been authorized to return] is mainly made up of persons who applied for the authorization in writing. The decision to authorize the 150 exiles' return to Chile as of today was adopted after making a study of each of the exiles' background. [end recording]

Here are some of the names of the persons who have been authorized to return to Chile as of today: (Mercedes Aliayes Yanes), (Claudio Igor Aleman Rojas), (Carlos Alberto Boni Varandio), (Edmundo Barrera Barrera), (Orlando Latanier Vaamonte Barriga), (Propropilano Basan), (Jorge Federico Pitch Olgares), (Miguel Angel Baeso Shwap), (Bagoverto Antonio Bravo Rosso), (Moises Groski Esbstein), (Erick Pedro Baeza Ortiz de Zarate), (Jose German Basualdo Basualdo), (Mauricio Borkis Madines), (Silvia Teresa Esejo Bermejo Parada), (Nelson Alfredo Borque Garcia), (Jose Guillermo Cadtes Rodriguez).

Also (Jorge Ivan Contreras Aladi), (Claudio Horacio Contreras Torres), (Amini Susana Calderon Tapia), (Domingo Coloma Acuna), (Jose Transito Contreras Iturda), (Cerda Arriagada Javier Gustavo), (Manuel Anselmo Carpintero Duran), (Victor Enrique Caceres Riquelme), (Pedro Eleuterio Cano Plaus), (Juan Cunto Zamurio), (Juan Sergio Castillo Ruvilar), (Luis Humberto Campos Nunez), (Carlos Carvaglio San Felipe), (Jose Santiago Carreno Fuentes), (Sergio Gustavo Castillo Ibarra), (Jorge Leoncio Catalan Arabena), (Marte Sarenz Caballero Santacruz).

We hereby recall that all these persons have applied for the authorization to return to Chile.

The following persons have also been authorized to return: (Merced Ivan Zervayan), (Ramon Luis Cordoba Velazco), (Hugo Pedro Carvajal Zamora), (Mariana Carvajal), (Luis Angela Cuadrado Tejeda), (Iris Yolanda Cuso Contreras), (Leonida del Carmen Calderon Moya), (Ramon Arturo Castrolobo), (Pedro Luciano Carrillo Novoa), (Domingo Zerbigni Arevalo), (Jose Carrasco Calderon).

The following persons have also been authorized to return following the order given by the president of the nation after analyzing a report submitted by the commission charged with handling the exiles' cases: (Ariel Guillermo Tiner Vargas), (Raul Arturo Ramirez Aundes), (Marina Edith Riveros Tapia), (Hortensia Silva Yanes), (Juan Carlos Sagredo Brantis), (Mercedes Troncoso), (Bernardita Nevediech Vera Reyes), (Katia Cecilia Valenzuela Espinosa), (Jose Abraham Delotosuch), (Alejandro Salvador Yanez Otomayor), and (Rosa Adelia Zambrano Zamorano).

The number of persons who have been authorized to return to the country amounts to 150. We have disclosed the names of some of them. This was a last minute report for Radio Nacional de Chile from Government House.

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN DENIES ANY CABINET CRISIS

PY230236 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Relay from Government House by Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpt] In reporting on the meeting held by the Council of Ministers at La Moneda Palace which was presided over by the chief of state, the secretary general of government, Hernan Felipe Errazuriz, denied there was a cabinet crisis. Errazuriz stated that quite the contrary, the cabinet is acting with great coordination, as well as very intensely, to confront the times we are going through. Errazuriz stated that on this occasion the interior minister submitted a lengthy report on subversive actions in downtown Santiago and other parts of the country on 15 December. The interior minister termed them meetings of Marxists groups that were not very successful.

ARMY RETIREMENTS, APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

PY241529 Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 14 Dec 82 p 4

[Text] The president of the republic, Gen Augusto Pinochet yesterday ordered the retirement of three major generals, a lieutenant general and a brigadier general.

The following generals are retiring: Lt Gen Sergio Covarrubias Sanhueza, Maj Gen Enrique Morel Donoso, Maj Gen Rigoberto Rubio Ramirez, Maj Gen Carol Urzua Ibanez and Brig Gen Fernando Arancibia Reyes.

An army press bulletin reported yesterday that the above officers will retain their current posts with the exception of Maj Gen Rigoberto Rubio Ramirez, who will take up the post of vice president of the National Mining Enterprise, Enami; and of Brig Gen Fernando Arancibia Reyes, who will soon be appointed to a position of trust by President Pinochet.

Appointments

The army postings order also includes the following appointments:

Maj Gen Patricio Torres Rojas, commander of the army engineering battalion, will become the army inspector general;

Brig Gen Christian Ackerknecht San Martin, head of the Chilean military mission in Washington, will be the new commander of the army engineering battalion;

Brig Gen Alejandro Medina Lois, rector of the University of Chile, will now become director of operations of the army;

Brig Gen Roberto Soto Mackenney, commander of the 3d Army Division and intendant of the Eighth Region, will now be the rector of the University of Chile;

Brig Gen Claudio Lopez Silva, director of the National Academy for Political and Strategic Studies, will be the new commander of the 4th Army Division stationed in Valdivia;

Brig Gen Arturo Alvarez Sgolia, army intelligence director, will now be the director of the National Academy for Political and Strategic Studies;

Brig Gen Eduardo Ibanez Tilleria, deputy commander of the 3d Army Division, will be the new commander of this division and intendant of the Eighth Region.

Promotions

The following promotions, proposed by the promotion panel to President Pinochet, have also been announced:

Brig Gen Gustavo Rivera Toro, director of army intelligence;

Brig Gen Luis Alberto Reyes Tastets, director of Famae [Army Ordnance];

Brig Gen Carlos Eugenio Ojeda Vargas, commander of the Army Telecommunications Command;

Brig Gen Manuel A. Matas Sotomayor, deputy commander of the 3d Army Division.

BETANCUR ANNOUNCES NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES

PA240354 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 0210 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Speech to the nation by President Belisario Betancur from the Foreign Ministry in Bogota -- live]

[Text] Good evening, compatriots, I am truly sorry to be forced to interrupt your Christmas Eve celebrations. Please keep that in mind. I am aware that you were expecting the address that the president traditionally makes to his compatriots at this season, not only to wish them a happy Christmas Eve and a happy New Year, but also to give them a report, albeit a brief one, on the state of the nation, of the fatherland in which we live. Let me see if I can be brief, because I have many things to tell you. I also know that you were awaiting your president with even more justification, in view of the national conviction that we are in a bad way economically and that therefore it is necessary to implement measures that cannot be further delayed if we want to keep things from reaching a point of no return.

The deadline that we gave ourselves is based on the fact that we made a lengthy, serious, in-depth study to ensure that the greater part of the sacrifices would be shouldered by government as such, as much as it could, and that only a minimal part would be borne by the people. However, that minimal part will be definitive, because it consists of the willingness to cooperate in the great effort that the government must and will make to obtain money wherever it can to be able to channel things properly and carry out programs for the benefit of all, but primarily for those who have very little, the ones who are in greatest need: the poor, who are as Colombian as you or I or the Indians.

In brief, this afternoon we declared an economic emergency, to be in effect for 50 days. The gravity of the crisis and the need to implement measures before the end of the year, in order for our actions to be timely and effective, created an economic emergency. The honorable Council of State agreed with us unanimously on this, and I wish to thank it for the efficiency and promptness with which it responded to this new summons from the government. We have ourselves a period of 50 days to dictate the decrees that are demanded by the very serious fiscal situation, and at the same time, to carry out, with all democratic humility, the corrections that the authorized spokesmen of the communities may wish to suggest to us and that the government considers to be reasonable. In this way, we demonstrate to our compatriots that there is no arrogance, no self-sufficiency on the part of the government, and that we are struggling only for the good of all; that we realize that we can make mistakes, but that we can also make corrections, without fearing the words "to correct" when we have made mistakes.

On previous occasions, I have spoken to you of the fiscal deficit. This means that the government is receiving less than it needs to ensure that there is security, to see that there are pipelines, sewers and hospitals. This deficit is a disruptive element in our economy, and one of the causes of the decline in production and employment, of the fact that there are so many unemployed. In addition, this deficit has brought us to our present state of economic stagnation. This deficit, which the experts call a monetary deficit of the budget and of foreign reserve -- that is, a lack of hard cash -- has caused great disruptions, including the (?inability) to direct resources toward production, and this in turn results in a dramatic decline in the country's taxes.

The decline in monetary resources, that is, when the government does not receive the money that it should from the payment of taxes -- provoked by direct causes such as the issuance of new money, tax evasion, a reduction in the growth rate of the economy, the paucity of contributions and the inability to collect those taxes, the immorality of certain officials -- coincided with unhealthy habits. For example, foreign loans were used to compensate for the reduced income and to finance the expenses of [words indistinct] of the bureaucracy. In this way, healthy income from the taxes paid by the citizens was replaced with resources coming from the issuance of the new money, that it, the creation of money by the bank of the republic, the putting into operation of the machine that makes bills, of which I have spoken to you on several occasions, without increasing production. This (?causes) an increase in the prices of the family food basket and [words indistinct]. We are putting up the machine to begin to work with it. [sentence as heard]

The outcome of this entire situation is that the government, in order to cover its expenses, reached and even exceeded the maximum margin of monetary expansion that the economy could support, with the result that it suppressed, [words indistinct] of loans for production that had already been accepted, because the money was lent to others at high rates of interest for speculative purposes, thereby increasing the paralysis into which the Colombian economy had fallen.

The country's departments and municipalities did not escape. Their income has also been depleted by inflation and tax evasion, while it was alleged that they were growing [words indistinct] leading to the depletion of the municipal fund for housing and other (?benefits) justly demanded by the people, such as security and employment.

It is therefore clear that any program aimed at economic reactivation -- in conjunction with the measures to end speculation and financial disorder, reduce high interest rates and deactivate inflationary incentives -- requires an in-depth solution to the fiscal problem to strengthen public savings as the basis of social capitalization and to break down the barrier raised by the deficit against creative activity and the creation of sources of employment.

I am now going to give you some information that is not good, but not bad. It is not much information, and it has been diluted as much as possible, because we are aware of the situation faced by most of you. [sentence as heard] I never [word indistinct], but it is a fact that neither have I ever practiced recrimination. The government does not act with [words indistinct], but you know that (?these measures) are absolutely inevitable to correct the general situation. In fact, they should have been implemented before so that they would not have been so traumatic. Some of them should have been put into effect from the beginning of this year. Like many others, they required that we show maturity, and that is why I know that you will receive them with tolerance and understanding.

We did not want to do this. We did everything in our power to reduce their impact. At first we tried to avoid imposing them and then to cushion them to make their impact minimal, to reduce them. Well then, after carefully analyzing the economic and social effects of an adjustment in the price of fuel and urban transportation, the government has found it necessary to authorize a moderate increase of 1 peso in transportation. We did this despite the argument that the new rate, in view of the present subsidy, will still fail to cover the costs of operation and provide a minimal profit margin. For this reason, we will not please our transporters, but I know that they are very patriotic; they are full of patriotism, and they will understand and accept this.

In keeping with our policy of favoring the least privileged, we sought to cushion the effects of measures of this type on family budgets. Therefore, primary importance was given to the transportation subidies received by workers with the lowest wages. This subsidy will be increased to a greater extent than the increase in fares. There are two types of transportation subsidy. One is paid to the transporter and the other to the worker. I wish to make some comments about the subsidy that the government pays to the transporter. The objective is to pay direct benefits to the owner of the bus, so that the user will not have to pay that sum. The system [words indistinct] is not only difficult to control, but also lends itself to distortions and very often the benefits go to sectors other than those that are supposed to receive it. However, if payments were made only to wage earners, the system would exclude those who are self-employed, students, retirees and the unemployed; in other words, those who need it most.

The changes in fuel and transportation will have an effect that is much less than the 20 percent that the government has set as its maximum goal in order to halt inflation, because the increase is 1 peso per 6 pesos, that is, a little less than 17 percent. The transporters will also, therefore, contribute their share of sacrifice, since the final increase in their income will be less than the percentage prescribed in the very law that was designed to improve the wages of the drivers. On the other hand, the government subsidy is not increasing in an equal proportion. Thus the government will be paying a greater portion of the increased costs through the subsidies. [as heard]

Let us now look at the subsidies for the users, for the workers. Wage earners whose income is not more than twice the minimum wage receive at present a form of assistance that allows them to pay 150 trips a month. In order to protect the income of these compatriots, the subsidy will be increased so that it not only covers that number of trips, but also covers 30 additional trips per month, thereby extending the benefits to members of the family in addition to the worker himself. Therefore, to a certain extent, they will be gaining. [Words indistinct] from today, the labor subsidy will be changed from 150 to 180 trips and from 525 pesos to 810 pesos per worker. Therefore, most of the transportation costs of the worker and his family will be covered.

In an attempt to make the users' use of transportation more comfortable, safe and efficient in the cities, the government will establish a loan administered by the transportation financial corporation to be used for renovation of the bus fleet. This benefit will be received by owners of old and inefficient buses. [passage indistinct]

It was thus not possible to delay an increase in the price of gasoline from 55 to 97 pesos. These prices have not been increased for over (?1 year) and the increase is less than the rate of inflation for this year and less than the increase in the minimum wage. In other words, [words indistinct] for the user, on the one hand, to compensate for the increase in the costs to Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] for the oil that it will import to refine here and for its own production and also to finance investments that Ecopetrol has been making in other countries [words indistinct] all of which permit a policy that will guarantee the continuous supply of this basic asset to avoid finding ourselves in a tight spot. The investments made by Ecopetrol have to be paid for in dollars. [Words indistinct] given the devaluation of our currency and Ecopetrol's policy regarding the importing of crude [passage indistinct].

We also want to mention that from 1972 to this year, consumption of fuel has increased to a greater extent than in previous years, which has therefore had an adverse effect on Ecopetrol's finances. The import price of each gallon of gasoline is 31 pesos more than the amount received by the company when it sells the same gallon. In other words, Ecopetrol loses 31 pesos for every gallon of imported gasoline that it receives from the countries from which it buys. In other words, in an attempt to free our country from the effects of the energy crisis and its historic dependence (?on foreign suppliers), Ecopetrol is seeking to increase exploration, increase production from the Yacyreta oilfields and continue expanding oil pipelines and storage while taking security measures in order to insure a normal supply of fuel throughout the republic. It is improving security plans so that in cases of emergency, like the one that recently afflicted the country, the risk to human life and to the economy will be minimized. This is a program to which all Colombians must contribute, because it is a problem that affects us all. In this manner, we well increase production and reduce dependence on foreign sources in the vital hydrocarbons sector.

Moreover, I have learned that a percentage of the price of a gallon of gasoline is used for the construction and maintenance of highways and roads and the repair of railroads. A developing country like ours must use public works as an effective mechanism for territorial integration and rural development. The government must make its presence felt in neglected areas, in the border areas in which many Colombians live in subhuman conditions. Moreover, all those investments are made to improve the levels of road safety; that is, to reduce the loss of human lives and to make travel on the highways safer.

Let us now speak of the departments and municipalities. I said initially that despite efforts to strengthen them, their situation is desolate. The government has a commitment to protect the provinces, not only because most of us are from the provinces, beginning with the president of the republic, but because efforts should be concentrated not only on meeting the nation's critical problems, but also on solving the problems of those areas that are also affected by the crisis. Within the limitations that stand in the way of having large-scale departmental and municipal reforms presented for the consideration of the Congress, as we are going to present them, it is urgently necessary to take measures to have the economic sectors with greatest income, with the greatest profit, contribute to improving and supporting the situation of all the regions in Colombia.

The new measures that we are taking do not basically affect the economically weak sectors of the Colombian people, but are designed to require a patriotic and civic contribution from the economically stronger sectors of the Colombian people. Taxes will now be imposed on industries, businesses, financial corporations, financing companies, savings corporation and insurance companies so that these sectors will make the same effort to pay taxes that has been made for a long time by small stores and factories.

The departments will receive an increased income from the tax on local and imported liquor. This is a luxury item that should be taxed for a contribution to the development of society. Moreover, this topic has been discussed by Congress, and the government has received magnificent proposals on this from many congressmen.

In the area of taxes that do not affect the economically weak sectors, what we have done is establish order in the present regime, strengthening the departments and municipalities and eliminating the national stamp tax.

Let us now turn to the most pleasant area, which is what we are going to do for Colombia to embark upon a new course.

Drawing from what little we have, we have made use of the emergency to decree an immediate property amnesty [amnistia patrimonial] -- a broad-ranging and generous amnesty -- in order to attract hidden capital, regardless of its source, without looking back at its origin and without imposing any kind of sanction, so that everybody will make larger contributions, to the extent they are able, to the cost of security, social works, roads, education, health, electrification -- in a nutshell, to the cost of all we need to achieve for everybody's progress, but mainly that of the most abandoned and needy ones.

Continuing with the government's sacrifice, we have decreed reductions in the income and property taxes [impuestos de renta y patrimonio]. These are reductions in defense of the poor and middle-class sectors, allowing the poor sectors not to pay taxes because they have nothing to pay taxes with, and setting lower taxes for the middle class. We have established a more collectible tax treatment on the little home in which each one of you lives.

We have eliminated the double taxation on open corporations in order to reactivate them, so we will produce more and so they will create more jobs, and also to democratize them. This way every company will have more owners, more shareholders, and not only a few.

In making the property register more rational, we have notably (?affected) the well-known tax on occasional earnings [ganancias ocasionales]. This way it will not continue to be a ghost that, in the hour of truth, would scare the people and keep them from selling, thus being of limited assistance to the government in building hospitals.

In this whole package of measures we have kept very much in mind the agricultural and livestock sector, which is the key to the production of our food, giving it a very encouraging treatment, reducing the probable income [renta presuntiva] from 8 percent to 6 percent and giving it very generous credits that will grow each year by 30 percent over the previous year.

With the reduction in the sales taxes -- in collaboration with the assembly plant -- the price of the R-4 car will drop to 65,000 pesos and that of the R-6 will drop to 50,000 pesos.

The same way that we are eliminating some taxes and reducing others, as well as reducing the amount of the minimal [nominal] obligation in regard to some national taxes, we are also taking firm steps to control tax evasion by establishing penalties and collection procedures, expanding probable amounts [presunciones] and withholdings and [demanding] payment certificates so those who are obliged to pay will pay and those with less income will not pay.

At this moment we are carrying out an implacable offensive against corrupt officials and employees of the national tax division to get them out of the government at any cost and, if possible, to take them to jail together with the taxpayers who bribe them and who have contributed to the establishment of this intolerable network of criminals who cost the government thousands of million of pesos, who preclude the possibility of building schools, water systems, hospitals and sewage systems. Because this affects you, the people who pay their taxes honestly, I repeat: All of those delinquents, whether or not they are protected by the lack of evidence, will leave the government, hopefully, for jail.

I want to stress that when adopting all decisions we have practiced and will continue to practice concerted action. We did so to help the textile sector -- all the textile [firms] that provide jobs -- and also to fix the minimum salaries. The agreements that have been reached prove that by consulting, engaging in dialogue and talking with people, the people understand. The people are not foolish. They know what their obligations and their duties are.

The popular housing (?programs) requiring no down payment for the middle class are far better than many believed. During the last 2 months, the National Council for Economic and Social Policy [Condes] and the Monetary Board have proposed formulas to substantially expand the supply of housing, and particularly popular housing. After very detailed, very exhaustive studies, the decision was reached to build 120,000 new low-cost popular housing units in 1983, that is, popular and middle-class homes.

I am going to explain to you how this goal of far-reaching social impact will be achieved. In first place, the (Upac) [not further identified] will offer 53,000 new housing units on the basis of its receipt of funds and of the fact that [word indistinct] the new portfolio [word indistinct] will be distributed in accordance with the recent legislation on this matter, as it must in fact occur. Likewise, the Central Mortgage Bank already has very concrete plans to offer 9,200 additional housing units through mechanisms that are different from the (Upac) financing.

The other financing methods -- like the National Savings Fund, the Popular Housing Fund [Caja de Vivienda Popular] and the Military Housing Fund [Caja de Vivienda Militar] will contribute approximately 4,500 housing units during 1983.

Insofar as the Inscredial [Territorial Credit Institute] is concerned, I have the great pleasure of announcing to you that we have designed a financing package that will allow 53,000 new low-cost housing units to be built next year. I have just signed a decree on this great priority item of the incumbent government, this great need, above all, of the poor people.

The resources required to implement this program will come from the following sources: Budget appropriations will be raised in the amount of 6 billion [pesos], an additional 10 percent of the cash reserves on savings deposits in commercial banks will be mandatorily invested in Inscredial's new housing bonds and the cash reserves for ordinary savings accounts at the housing and loan associations will be dropped from 8 to 6 percent. These associations will be ordered to invest this 2 percent in the new Inscredial bonds. The Monetary Board is currently devising compensatory mechanisms to keep these measures from pushing up interest rates.

After summing up [the proceeds from] this package of measures and combining them with the current budget of the Inscredial, we arrive at a total of more than 22 billion additional pesos that the Inscredial will receive in 1983 for popular housing. Consequently, one can see that we have the necessary mechanisms to invest more than 100 billion pesos in housing in 1983. This situation will undoubtedly have a large impact on the country's overall welfare and on the economy as a whole because, as you all already know, to build a house is to set up the structure of the economy [words indistinct].

Fellow countrymen, as you can see I have fulfilled all my [word indistinct]. I have done this thanks to the generous support that you continue to offer me. I have fulfilled the basic duty of every leader -- that of every father, business manager, teacher or ruler -- which is to make sure, without a moment's respite, that the communities entrusted to his care are aware of the current reality. The leaders must help create the necessary conditions so that the communities can face the challenges and seize the opportunities that this very reality offers. This is what the head of the household has to do every day while running the affairs of the home and the family: He has to reorganize consumption and replace those articles that have become very costly with others that are less expensive, and he has to reorient his offspring so that they will change their aspirations and adjust their personal preferences toward the more viable and attractive alternatives that are within their reach.

As you can see, we are doing okay. Yes, we are. And in spite of the immense difficulties of which all of you are aware, I know that you believe in the government. [Word distinct] and works without rest and without fanfare so that everything will improve. Let us continue helping each other. Continue to help us. Let us try to understand each other. Think of what has happened to the efforts to achieve peace. [Sentence indistinct] Let each one do his part, because the fatherland belongs to all of us, and we all need the fatherland.

To close, with all the affection and respect that I have for you, my children, the ones who give the orders, the only ones that I truly have to obey and take care of, I hope that you will pass these days calmly and happily. I also have the firm hope that the peace on earth to men of good will shall reach us all, and that 1983 will bring us all the good things that a people as noble and decent as the Colombian people deserve. A very merry Christmas and a happy New Year in 1983. Good night.

Lower Taxes

PA241740 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Bogota -- The Colombian people woke up today with lower taxes, but at the same time they were preparing themselves to accept the fact that the chances for tax evasion are virtually Nil. This is the general idea behind the first package of measures that the national government made public last night, during the first 12 hours of economic emergency. Here are the most outstanding aspects of the plan:

1. A total of 800,000 people are exempt from income taxes [word indistinct] a gross income in excess of 150,000 pesos or assets of more than 450,000 pesos.

2. Double taxation is eliminated for public stock companies and additional deductions are increased for shareholders of other stock companies.

3. A 10-percent discount is established for open stock companies.

4. Estimated income is decreased.

5. An unlimited amnesty on property taxes is declared as well as an amnesty for those who have pending demands, tax returns and appeals as long as they pay the higher estimated values.

6. Preferential treatment is accorded for the taxpayers' homes, by exempting the first 4 million pesos of their cost from property tax.

7. Income tax rates are decreased for national [word indistinct] with decreases ranging from 50 percent to 18 percent for lower income level. [as heard]

8. A portion of the financial returns earned by investors in the financial sector are exempt with the purpose of partially and gradually exempting from all taxes the nominal profits so obtained.

9. Property appraisal standards are rationalized in order to strengthen municipal treasuries and to conduct real estate appraisals in a technical manner.

10. An estimated revenue system is established for limited liability companies.

11. It is assumed that all loans must earn a minimum income.

12. Property tax deductions are established.

In the next few hours, the government will establish severe measures to prevent tax evasion.

MOPOCO MEMBERS TO ATTEMPT RETURN ON 6 FEBRUARY

PY241608 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 24 Dec 82 p 14

[Text] Members of the Colorado Popular Movement (Mopoco) have announced that they will make another attempt to reenter the country on 6 February 1983, the date on which general elections will be held. The document that was released by Mopoco, a Colorado Party faction in exile, calls for abstention from voting, "to prevent any participation and involvement in the dictatorship's rules of the game."

The Mopoco declaration, which was made on the occasion of the year-end festivities, is said to be inspired by "the task of salvation that we must carry out in the difficult times the country is currently experiencing."

The document stated that "the proposed seventh reelection [of Stroessner], which will end up in nothing but another farce," is underway. The document then states that this situation has prompted Mopoco to adopt the political decision to call for abstaining from voting.

The Mopoco leaders believe that it is not possible for the people to continue to be "subject to and victims of deep humiliation, violence and all kinds of larceny."

The document voices its solidarity with Napoleon Ortigosa, "the world's longest-held political prisoner;" Ruben Dario Veron, "leaders of the new Colorado generations and a staunch supporter of the cause of party unity;" Ramon Santiago Moreno, correspondent of the newspaper ABC COLOR; and Dr Domingo Laino, "a courageous and hard fighter who was expelled from the country merely for publishing a book strongly critical of former dictator Somoza."

The document expresses its support for the bishop's concerns over the cessation of persecutions and crimes. Upon recalling the pope's message condemning torture, the document notes that "these actions are even more painful if carried out under the excuse of maintaining internal security and the apparent need to preserve peace."

The document concludes by announcing that some Mopoco leaders will make another attempt to reenter the country on 6 February "to denounce the upcoming electoral farce from Paraguayan territory."

GOVERNMENT WANTS LAINO FAR AWAY FROM BORDER

PY222206 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 22 Dec 82 p 7

[Excerpts] Reliable sources reported this morning that the Paraguayan Government has asked Argentina to banish Domingo Laino to some area far away from the border between the two nations.

Laino is living in Clorinda for the time being, until he makes up his mind as to where to go, even though his latest statements indicated that he wanted to come back to his country and that he was expecting some solution to materialize, something which must now be discarded in view of the information on hand.

According to the system of banishment, which has been used in the past, the person involved accepts the place of residence that the host country assigns to him.

The country of residence pays the resettlement expenses, which are later reimbursed by the nation which requested the banishment.

Usually this is done when it is believed that the presence of the person in exile near the borders could disrupt the peace of the nation that exiled him, as is happening in Laino's case because his expulsion has unleashed various reactions and many persons have been going to Clorinda to visit him and talk with him. Despite our efforts, we have not been able to obtain more information in this regard or the date when the banishment will take place.

OPPOSITION PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE RESIGNS

PY252217 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 25 Dec 82 p 7

[Excerpt] "I have submitted my resignation as presidential candidate for the Radical Liberal Party [PLR] because of the arrest of a group of party youngsters who were putting up street posters on instructions from the party presidency and executive committee," stated Enzo Doldan yesterday. He was referring to the arrest of party youths who were putting up posters at the intersection of Estrella and 14 Mayo Streets. At that time the youths were arrested by plainclothes policemen who took them to the 3d Police District only to be released later. "My resignation was submitted to PLR Vice Presidents Ramon Lezcano Torres and Persio Franco who will meet next Monday with other members of the party directorate to study this question." Doldan said.

The PLR politician also said that "I want to note that my resignation is not irrevocable because I am a presidential candidate under a mandate from my party colleagues. If the PLR directorate confirms my resignation, it will become final; but if the directorate does not, I will have to withdraw it. I have for the time being resigned as presidential candidate because of the reason I noted."

Doldan then added: "I want to make it clear that I have resigned as presidential candidate not from my membership in the PLR."

ABC COLOR'S REPORTER MORENO RELEASED 24 DEC

PY241627 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 1450 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Ramon Santiago Moreno, a reporter for the newspaper ABC COLOR, was released this morning after being held for several weeks. Today, Christmas eve, Moreno was warmly welcomed both in his home and in the newspaper office.

EXILE SCORES SELECTIVE POLITICAL REPRESSION

PY221734 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 19 Dec 82 p 11

[Excerpts] "Gen Alfredo Stroessner's government is currently imolementing a policy of selective repression against the Paraguayan people in order to be reelected for the seventh time in the elections scheduled for February 1983." Nelson Gutierrez, leader of the Paraguayan Accord in Exile [Acuerdo Paraguayo en el Exilio], has criticized this policy in La Paz. Gutierrez noted that "Stroessner's reelection is not certain" because "the generals and the opposition might come together and agree" to replace him. However, Stroessner "is more than willing to be a candidate." Stroessner has been in power for the past 28 years. Gutierrez stated that the number of political detainees decreased lately, adding, however, that there are currently approximately 100 persons under arrest for political reasons. Gutierrez stated that he is currently touring the Latin American Continent to promote solidarity with the Paraguayan people in an attempt to save the lives of political detaines.

WAR MINISTER AGAINST MILITARY FIGHTING TERRORISTS

PY241458 Paris AFP in Spanish 2250 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Lima, 23 Dec (AFP) -- Peruvian War Minister Gen Luis Cisneros expressed his opposition today to the participation of the armed forces in the struggle against the terrorism of Shining Path because, being trained to kill, the armed forces would provoke bloodshed among Peruvians.

In an interview with the magazine QUEHACER of this capital, Minister Cisneros stated that all other repressive measures must be exhausted before allowing the intervention of the armed forces. He recommended the reform of the antiterrorist law and the participation of the entire country in the struggle against subversion.

Stating that the police are acting effectively in the zone of Ayacucho, within their own limitations, Cisneros explained that to achieve complete success the police would have to begin killing all members and nonmembers of the Shining Path movement. I think that would be the worst alternative, and I am, therefore, opposed to that policy, unless it is strictly necessary for the armed forces to participate in that struggle, the general stated. Cisneros was interior minister during the previous military regime.

The minister added that Shining Path will make sure not to provoke a confrontation with the armed forces because it is not suitable for them. He added that we do not want a confrontation either, not because we are afraid to face them, but because we have been prepared, trained and hardened to fight.

But the problem of fighting among Peruvians, to kill them without being sure that all those who will disappear will really be the guilty ones, is a very difficult decision to make, although it is very easy to ask for.

General Cisneros added that it is necessary to seek other solutions before making the decision for the participation of the armed forces, which must be the ultimate available alternative to restore order.

We, he stated, would take control of the zone and take action. We are war professionals and we are trained to kill. That is what war is all about. When the decision is made, the armed forces will have to take political and military control of the zone. The press will no longer be able, then, to get there as easily as it has been doing, and might end up justifying terrorist actions. A zone would be delimited where the press could no longer enter. Communiques would be issued.

On stating that Shining Path will not succeed, because all it can show for itself is some destruction and murders here and there, Cisneros said that the extremist group has survived so far because the police did not know how to handle the problem. He then added that the solution to this problem does not necessarily have to be repressive, but all-encompassing. He explained that these depressed areas must be pulled out of their current situation because they are the breeding ground for terrorism.

He proposed changes in the antiterrorist law so as to consider criminals those who corrupt the minds of youth and so that they can be summarily tried by special courts. He also proposed the mobilization of the entire country because a confrontation with Shining Path does not involve support for the government but for the democratic system. He concluded by saying that if the attacks are carried out at night in Ayacucho, I would establish a curfew and I would shoot anyone moving at night.

OFFICIAL SAYS STUDENTS BEING TRAINED IN CUBA

PY241329 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 16 Dec 82 p 22

[Editorial: "'Students' in Cuba and Nicaragua"]

[Text] Eduardo Chulle, director of the National Scholarships Institute [Inabec], recently made serious charges. He disclosed that although the Peruvian Government has never signed any cultural agreement with the Cuban and Nicaraguan Governments there are hundreds of Peruvian students -- and students from other countries of the continent -- who, under the pretext of studying, are receiving paramilitary training in Cuba and Nicaragua.

One does not need too much imagination to see how that training will be used later on. In other words, and despite the public denials by the higher-ranking authorities of some of the aforementioned countries -- specifically Cuba through Fidel Castro -- that there is no link nor intention to interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries, events virtually contradict this affirmation.

The Inabec director has also pointed out that in addition to some 500 students, there are some peasant workers whose whereabouts are unknown, although there is unquestionable evidence that they left Peru to go to Cuba. Neither is there any information on what they are doing on the island if they are still there. Moreover, there is a detailed list of the students' names. None of them have gone to Inabec to request scholarships to continue their studies abroad. These students obtained their scholarships directly through the embassies of the aforementioned countries.

Three terrorists -- who looted the Social Interest Agricultural Organization (SAIS) premises in Tahuantinsuyo -- were arrested a few days ago. According to their statements and the information obtained from them they received thorough paramilitary training in some of the aforementioned countries.

It is high time the Foreign Ministry woke up and did something about this, but not in the ambiguous way in which it usually reacts in these cases. It is also something for the country's various intelligence services to look into. There must be someone, somewhere, having a good laugh at the Peruvian democracy's naivete and good faith.

MOSCOW CITY OFFICIAL INTERESTED IN GRANTING AID

PY232235 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 15 Dec 82 p 8

[Excerpt] Franklin Acosta del Pozo, communist mayor of the Ate-Vitarte District, yesterday declared Boris Stepanov, deputy chairman of the executive committee of the Moscow City Soviet and member of the Moscow City party committee, an illustrious guest of this district. In a solemn ceremony which was attended by Alfonso Barrantes Lingan, president of the Unity of the Left (IU), the mayor handed the keys of the city to the Soviet visitor and named his escorts Vitaliy Gravilov and Yevgeniy Bezrukov -- both members of the Moscow City Soviet -- guests of honor.

During an interview, Boris Stepanov stated that the objective of his visit was to strengthen Soviet-Peruvian relations and that he wishes to reach an agreement which will allow them to cooperate in programs to prevent pollution, among other problems that affect large cities. The Soviet official stated: "We are willing to reach an agreement in the near future to grant technical aid if the Lima Municipality requests it, especially for the construction of housing quarters, transportation systems, etc."

SIMPSON-MAZZOLI BILL CALLED DANGER TO RELATIONS

PA252217 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Dec 82

[NOTIMEX report]

[Text] The U.S. Congress has postponed the discussion on the Simpson-Mazzoli bill until 1983. If this bill is approved, it would unleash persecution against hundreds of thousands of Mexicans who work in that country. The purpose of the bill is to dislodge Mexicans from their places of employment to make their jobs available to unemployed U.S. citizens, despite the fact that they look down on the dirty work the foreigners do because it is denigrating, tiring and poorly paid.

The Simpson-Mazzoli bill also aims at reducing the number of visas for workers, at discriminating against the most [word indistinct], at deporting those without identification documents who have arrived there since 1980, and at imposing taxes and insurance fees on those who remain as residents, but without giving them any benefits or guarantees before the courts. The persons who drafted this bill, which is dangerous to bilateral relations, are Republican Senator Alan Simpson and Democratic Representative Romano Mazzoli.

Oaxaca State Senator (Helario Ramirez Lopez) has said that the approval of the Simpson-Mazzoli bill in a country of immigrants such as the United States would represent a unilateral and exclusive action against the Mexican people. U.S. historians have defined that North American nation as a melting pot of ethnic groups and have said that its greatness lies in this.

The authors of the bill have said that the immigrants are a threat to the culture, way of life and moral stability of the United States. According to data provided by Senator (Ramirez Lopez), 5 million Mexicans would be affected by the Simpson-Mazzoli bill, but this bill would also hurt several million more who would have to be deported for not having the minimum required residence time.

It appears that a more realistic figure is that provided by (Jorge Bustamante) [not further identified], who estimates that there are between 750,000 and 2 million Mexican immigrants in the United States, depending on the time of year. These figures agree with estimates made by the people who favor the Simpson-Mazzoli, bill, who claim that the application of the bill would make available between 1 and 2 million jobs for unemployed U.S. citizens.

U.S. specialists have agreed that the Simpson-Mazzoli bill will not work. In April, more than 5,000 Mexicans without documents were deported, and their jobs were given to U.S. workers; but a few months later they abandoned these jobs, and they were once again filled by foreigners.

There was concern in Mexico's Senate because of the effect that the bill would have had if voting on it had not been postponed until the middle of 1983, because it would have stirred old sources of resentment; and far from solving the problem of people without documents, it would have increased tension along the border. The situation has also caused irritation because the conservatives supporting the bill forget that Mexican immigration is a subsidy to the U.S. economy.

DEFENSE SECRETARY SAYS NO MORE ARMS PURCHASES

PA260406 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] We will buy no more weapons, since Mexico does not need to purchase any more, because those it already has are sufficient for the nation's needs, said National Defense Secretary Juan Jose Arevalo Gardoqui during a breakfast session with journalists.

Arevalo Gardoqui pointed out that, far from purchasing new arms, the Mexican Army will continue its reforestation program throughout the country and will bolster its support of services provided by the military. He also revealed the following new appointments:

Brig Gen (Rodolfo Rencovia Alconedo) was appointed commander of the 6th Military Zone at Saltillo, Coahuila; (Carlos Gaitan Duron) [no rank given] was appointed to the 9th Military Zone at Culiacan, Sinaloa; Brig Gen (Carlos Heredia) was appointed commander of the 29th Military Zone at Minatitlan, Veracruz; and Brig Gen (Raul Suarez Carreno) was appointed commander of the Presidential Guards.

NOTIMEX EDITORIALCRITICIZES U.S. REGIONAL POLICY

FL162100 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1640 GMT 16 Dec 82

[Editorial by Tomas Gerardo Allaz, NOTIMEX, entitled: U.S. Policy in Central America -- Apathy Is Complicity]

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- U.S. and Israeli military intervention in Central America (especially on our very near southern border) becomes more evident each day.

Just a few days ago, the self-proclaimed president of Guatemala, Efrain Rios Montt, shamelessly declared that his country is a strategic point in Central America, possibly more important to the United States than to Guatemalans themselves. Sincere to that extreme, the general forewarned us. Now no one can ignore his regime's total submission to Washington's designs and Uncle Sam's immediate interest on our southern border.

In Chiapas and Tabasco there are very rich petroleum deposits which Washington considers part of its strategic reserves. We must not forget that the famous Special Rapid Intervention Forces were established to ensure oil supplies to the United States under all circumstances without regard for the sovereignty of producing countries.

Ronald Reagan's strategy covers all bases. In order to bring Pope John Paul II into his struggle against the nations of the area, he sent Vernon Walters -- of dubious background -- to the Vatican to persuade the pope to visit the dictators currently in power (particularly Rios Montt). This former CIA deputy director was the very one in charge of establishing the basis of direct cooperation between Washington and Guatemala.

Heaven help us if we lack foresight and tolerate a significant military intervention by the colossus of the north on our southern border.

From the personal viewpoint, we seem to be reviving the pathetic warnings of Isidro Fabela before the League of Nations charging that nonintervention was serving as shelter for nazi-fascist aggression; a nonintervention which Lazaro Cardenas branded as one of the most cautious forms of intervention.

We will never forget that session of 20 September 1937 in which we heard Isidro Fabela unmask the fallacy of nonintervention. The summary of his speech in the official memories of the Foreign Ministry say: The so-called policy of nonintervention has only prolonged the war in Spain and postponed the war in Europe.

In fact, the defeat of the Spanish democracy was interpreted by Hitler as an approval for his expansionist ideas. The result was World War II with its 30 million corpses. It is moving to have to evoke once again the warning words of the Mexican representative before the League of Nations, regarding the danger to France with a single power threatening its northern and southern borders at the same time.

Of course, the idea is not to predict a Mexican military intervention on the side of the Central American people. However, the more an open abstention in the military field is required, the more we will have to intervene politically and diplomatically in all international forums to condemn and stop the U.S. military intervention.

Furthermore, those who in Guatemala and El Salvador are facing genocide, the scorched earth strategy and the most atrocious tortures and death must know that the Mexico of Miguel de la Madrid has not strayed from the spirit of Isidro Fabela who in a famous letter written to Augusto Cesar Sandino in 1928 said:

You are fulfilling a double duty; national and supranational... representing with bravery the dignity of our race wounded by another race trying to dominate the entire continent...you are not a rebel as the invaders and traitors call you; they are the rebels, rebels of justice and the law.

DE LA MADRID RATIFIES AMBASSADORS IN POSTS

FL241401 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0942 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- The Foreign Secretariat announced today that President Miguel de la Madrid has ratified as Mexico's representatives abroad the following persons:

Ambassador to Australia Jesus Cabrera Munoz Ledo.
Ambassador to the Republic of Austria Roberto de Rosenzweig Diaz.
Ambassador to Brazil Antonio de Icaza Gonzalez.
Ambassador to Cuba Rodolfo Echeverria Ruiz.
Ambassador to the PRC Eugenio Anguiano Roch.
Ambassador to Italy Luis Weckmann Munoz
Ambassador to Nicaragua Augusto Gomez Villanueva.
Ambassador to Peru Isabel Moreno Pino [as received].
Ambassador to Venezuela Jesus Puente Leyva [as received].

BRIEFS

EXPORT-IMPORT REPORT -- Mexico, 16 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- The Under Secretariat of Foreign Trade has reported that Mexican imports during 1982 decreased by $7 million in comparison to 1981 and that exports increased by $2 billion during the same period in comparison to 1981. This year imports reached $16 billion and exports $21.5 billion. [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0505 GMT 17 Dec 82 FL]

COSTA RICA

VOLIO SEES 'AFFRONT' IN HAVANA-ORIGINATED REPORT

PA252351 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1944 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] San Jose, 25 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio and the San Jose newspaper LA NACION today both accused the Havana and Managua Governments of promoting a campaign to discredit Costa Rica.

Volio said that "an eloquent manifestation of that campaign is the report originating in Havana, Cuba, on the existence of a 30,000-man army in Costa Rica, including 5,000 former Somozist national guardsmen."

LA NACION added that the "campaign of lies" is orchestrated by "The Havana-Managua-Mexico City triangle," and that it is supported by the Costa Rican communists.

Foreign Minister Volio said that the communist report on the existence of a 30,000-man army in Costa Rica "is an affront to a nation that is making an effort to strengthen its democratic institutions by overcoming every kind of adversity."

The newspaper said that there is a campaign "coordinator" in Mexico named Henry Howard, who has disseminated Havana's report of a Costa Rican army throughout the world. LA NACION said in its editorial that "a clandestine army of 5,000 former Somozist national guardsmen armed and concealed by the Costa Rican Government that terrorizes the people and tortures political prisoners is a story too big to swallow."

EL SALVADOR

PCN, PDC CABINET MEMBERS SUBMIT RESIGNATIONS

PA232018 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY 23 Dec 82 p 3

[Excerpts] The representatives of the National Conciliation Party [PCN] and the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] who have cabinet positions submitted their resignations yesyerday morning at the request of President Alvaro Magana.

The officials who resigned occupied the following posts: from the PCN, the presidency, justice and public works ministers; the undersecretary of public health and social welfare and the secretary of information of the presidency; and the undersecretaries of labor, public works and housing and urban development.

The PDC members who resigned were the foreign, labor and social welfare and education ministers, as well as the undersecretaries of justice, agriculture and livestock, foreign relations and education.

DEFENSE MINISTER STRESSES ELECTORAL SOLUTION

PA240526 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1322 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia insists that the country's conflict will come to an end when the guerrillas accept a democratic solution based on the electoral participation offered by the government. In a statement broadcast last night by a television station, General Garcia announced the upcoming distribution of a "guide" intended to achieve a "more active participation" by the people in the struggle that is currently being waged by the armed forces.

The minister said: "The termination of this conflict that has been imposed on us is directly related to an understanding on the part of those who are involved in subversion, either by mistake, from principle or for any other reason."

[The termination of this conflict] "is directly related to the guerrillas' ability to see clearly the solution that we have offered, to see that it must be brought about by democratic means, through participation in the elections," he reiterated. Garcia insisted that there is no reason for the rebels to continue their struggle, "which will be useless for them, since they will not be able to achieve what they want by those means."

According to the minister, "Until this happens, we, the armed forces, must continue our activities, which thank God are endorsed by the Salvadoran people." The next general elections will be held in El Salvador prior to March 1984. Numerous political and military sectors feel that the leftist rebels can and should participate in these elections and abandon clandestine activities. Although the guerrilla organizations have not yet voiced any opinion on this, some official and leftist circles assume that they will not participate in the 1984 elections.

General Garcia insisted that the FMLN's only achievement is the creation of "more confusion, more destruction, more unrest."

The defense minister also announced that a "guide" intended to achieve "a more effective participation by the Salvadoran people in their collaboration with the armed forces in this imposed struggle" will soon be published and distributed.

He finally said that this participation by the people must be both "practical and objective," and that it will create an idea of "unity between the armed forces and the Salvadoran people, who yearn for peace."

GUATEMALA

GUERRILLAS RELEASE PRESIDENT SUAZO'S DAUGHTER

NC240736 Paris AFP in English 0727 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Guatemala City, Dec 24 (AFP) -- Xiomara Suazo, a daughter of Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova, was freed Thursday night by guerrillas who kidnapped her here 10 days ago, a family source reported.

The Guatemalan doctor was released by the People's Revolutionary Movement (MRP) 24 hours after Guatemalan television news programs broadcast the guerrilla organization's political manifesto, which was also printed by the local press and newspapers in Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador. The guerrillas had threatened to execute their prisoner if their statement was not published.

Xiomara Suazo, 33, a Guatemalan who has lived here all her life, works as a doctor in the capital's general hospital. She is a daughter of her father's first marriage, contracted when he was studying here.

FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS RELATIONS WITH BELIZE

PA252030 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] According to international press dispatches, the UK is opposed to the United States selling arms to Guatemala, for fear that Guatemala might invade Belize. Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola was categoric in stating that President Rios Montt has negotiated no weapons purchase with the United States:

[Begin recording] Statements by President Rios Montt have been very clear. He has not asked the U.S. Government for sophisticated or any other type of weapons, because Guatemala is engaged in a national reconstruction program in the political, economic, social and cultural fields.

As I have repeatedly said, the present government's attention -- in all its spheres of action -- is centered on benefitting the country's highlands and on incorporating all Guatemalans into the economic and general integration process.

We have always had this problem with Belize, and it sometimes causes disappointment to hear this from a country that has every means necessary to learn about what is happening in Guatemala. President Reagan is convinced that Guatemala is only interested in the peaceful but active process of transforming Guatemala. [end recording]

Castillo Arriola also said that Guatemala does not fear or care about the UK military presence in Belize: [Begin recording] The UK military presence in Belize does not frighten us, or even interest us. On many occasions Guatemala has declared its firm determination to resolve the controversy in a peaceful, just and equitable manner. Only yesterday I received an ambassador, or rather a charge d'affaires in charge of the UK affairs here, to agree on a new date for calm, peaceful talks within the means established in the UN Charter; that is, negotiations.

Now, Price is a man who -- I could show you here, I could demonstrate -- is playing a game. Every time his political and domestic situation deteriorates, he then says that Guatemala is threatening Belize. To date Price has much evidence of Guatemala's almost fraternal attitude in helping Belize in opening the borders, opening trade. I recently had a very friendly talk with the economy minister himself -- who sometimes meddles in matters that are not in the economic field, but in the foreign relations field. The two of them decided that they will establish trade relations. The Foreign Ministry is directing this policy for Guatemala through negotiations and with the greatest interest in solving one of Guatemala's main problems; the problem of Belize. However, we want to do this peacefully, and according to peaceful procedures. [end recording]

NICARAGUA

INTERIOR MINISTER BORGE ON RESISTING INVASION

PM211633 Paris LE MONDE in French 19-20 Dec 82 p 4

[Interview with Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge by "Ch.V." in Managua -- date not given]

[Text] Managua -- Mr Tomas Borge, who is 52 years old, is one of the nine "comandantes" who make up the leadership of the Sandinist Front and is one of the revolution's historical leaders. As interior minister since Somoza's fall in July 1979, he has been leading the struggle against the supporters of the old regime and all those who have joined the "counterrevolutionary" camp. We questioned him on the military situation in his country.

[Question] Do you think the Americans will attack you?

[Answer] I do not think so. Nor do I think that the Hondurans will launch their army against us. They would have too much to lose. In face of our people, who would be motivated because they would be defending their territory, they would be sending into battle peasants who would not know why they were fighting in another country.

[Question] What about the joint U.S.-Honduran military maneuvers?

[Answer] They were intended to frighten us. And they were probably also intended to ensure that we mistook the target, to make us believe that it was from there that the aggression would come.

[Question] How many armed Somozists are you facing?

[Answer] There are 5,000 of them in Honduras and around 1,000 permanently on our terrority.

[Question] If the 5,000 invade the country, what will happen?

[Answer] We will send 20,000 men against them and there will then no longer be any border.

[Question] What do you think is Reagan's intention?

[Answer] He wants to destroy us, but he does not know how to do it. So he is trying all methods. What he does not know is that we are used to danger and that danger stimulates us. In addition it is enabling us to mobilize our population. In their desire to destroy our revolution the Americans may set the whole of Central America afire, but they will ultimately be the losers because the peoples will then shake off their tyranny and regain their dignity.

[Question] Is Mr Reagan not trying to make you more radical?

[Answer] If that is the case he has understood nothing about our revolution. We will be no more and no less radical whatever he does. We are not talking about political pluralism and a mixed economy to please the Americans. It is our program and we will maintain it whatever Mr Reagan's policy is.

[Question] Pluralism means elections. What kind of elections?

[Answer] We do not yet know. We will study the election systems in other countries to devise elections suited to our country's situation.

[Question] Does your concept of pluralism imply the possibility of the opposition gaining power?

[Answer] To be frank with you I do not think it will be able to do so.

[Question] Why have the Miskito Indians rebelled against you?

[Answer] When the revolution reached the Atlantic coast it knew nothing about the Indians. It has no ethnological knowledge. It therefore made blunders and sometimes used hasty methods. The Miskito rebelled and some took up arms against us. We were forced to repress them. It is not in the nature or the intention of our revolution to use repression, but we were forced to do so.

OFFICER REPORTS INSURGENCY UNDER CONTROL

PA231556 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1644 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Managua, 22 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Commander Francisco Rivera, chief of the Nicaraguan border guard troops, said here today that the army controls the military, economic and organizational [as received] situations along the border with Honduras. Rivera also said that anti-Sandinist groups which had infiltrated Nicaragua have been disbanded.

He said that in the last 5 years Nicaraguan regular troops staged three ambushes on the antigovernment groups that had entered the country from Honduras. Although he gave no details of the three ambushes, Commander Rivera said that previously the Nicaraguan troops had "dealt the hardest military blow" to the attacking rebels on Los Nubarrones hill, on the border with Honduras, managing to expel several hundred anti-Sandinists from Nicaragua.

Commander Rivera said that on Los Nubarrones hill the invaders fled in disorder, that they suffered "several casualties, including dead and wounded." He added that FAL rifles, grenade launchers and other military supplies were recovered.

According to Rivera, "the counterrevolutionaries will continue to insist on their plans to establish a provisional Somozist government," despite their losses. He also said that in the next few days, sabotage actions are expected against the transportation system that is bringing in the coffee harvest in northern Nicaragua. Furthermore, he added that attacks on Sandinist leaders are expected.

Border Fighting Reported

PA232249 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Ocotal -- It was reported today that a unit of former Somozist guards was ambushed by border guard troops of the Sandinist Peoples Army, EPS, barely 3 km from the Honduran border, as they were coming from that country. Capt (Javier Agurcia), deputy military chief in Ocotol, Nueva Segovia Department, said that the action took place in (El Tiso), near the town of Santa Maria, some 70 km west of this city.

In the ambush two counterrevolutionaries were killed and many others wounded. The group of assailants, comprised of some 20 former Somozist guards who had apparently entered the country to reinforce other groups that operated northwest of Ocotal some days ago, fled into Honduras, abandoning a considerable quantity of weapons, (Agurcia) added.

The material recovered by the border guard troops includes FAL rifles with 12 clips, Chinese-made AK rifles, RPG-7 rocket launchers and two knapsacks. One of the dead men was possbily the leader of the group, because he had a Browning gun, which are usually carried by the leaders of these gangs, said (Agurcia).

Since 8 December more than 2,000 former Somozist guards have mobilized in northwest Nicaragua as part of the counterrevolutionary plan to take the city of Jalapa -- some 60 north of Ocotal -- as a beachhead to isolate it from the rest of the country and military occupy that area.

Heavy clashes have been taking place along the border with Honduras, on the Nicaraguan side. According to Capt (Agurcia), the counterrevolutionaries' initial plan has been disrupted because in recent days these groups have been retreating into Honduras, to regroup for further attacks.

New fighting is expected in the coming days, (Agurcia) added. He also revealed that other groups have been continuously entering through the border regions of Somoto and Santa Maria. In his opinion, these actions are intended to ease the military pressure against the groups operating in Jalapa and Murra, where heavy clashes took place some days ago.

(Agurcia) said that the enemy is receiving heavy blows due to the efforts of the Nicaraguan troops, which are composed principally of reservist workers, peasants and students, who have done most of the fighting in that region.

BORGE, D'ESCOTO ON DANGERS FACED BY REVOLUTION

PA240044 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge has charged in Managua that Central American reactionary sectors are making joint efforts to liquidate the Sandinist revolutionary process. All of the enemies of the Sandinist people's revolution are perfectly aware of the invasion plans that are looming over Nicaragua, Borge asserted during a chat with Honduran newsmen who are visiting Managua.

The FSLN leader also said that the path to peace does not lie in rifle muzzles, and he urged the Honduran Government to discuss seriously with Nicaragua their bilateral problems. He noted that Nicaragua has never thought of invading Honduras or of fighting against the people of that neighboring country; instead, Nicaragua is doing everything possible to avoid taking any action that might deteriorate their mutual relations.

In another development, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto charged in Managua that the United States insists on not engaging in dialogue with the Sandinist government and is at the same time forcing the Honduran regime to reject any type of negotiation with the Nicaraguan authorities to settle their problems.

During an interview granted to the news agency PRENSA LATINA and to Cuban television, D'Escoto said that U.S. President Ronald Reagan maintains his policy of strangling the Sandinist people's revolution, for which he is using the Honduran Government.

He added that the North American government leaders do not [word indistinct] (?the fact) that a deep and irreversible change has taken place in Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan foreign minister reiterated that his country's government junta wants peace and is willing to talk with the United States to achieve understanding. We want to have at least normal relations with Washington, but we demand respect for our right to self-determination because we are the ones who shape our destiny, he said.

Borge on 'Christmas' Plot

PA240341 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Statement by Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge, date and place not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Everywhere in the world, Christmas is a source of joy, a cause for family gatherings in which to express the best feelings of peace, fraternity and love. This year we have made big efforts to overcome our difficulties and objective limitations in order to have a merry Christmas in accordance with this spirit of fraternity and love that I have mentioned. Despite the death of so many companeros who have fallen at the border and of the 75 children martyred in Ayapa, we had hoped to have a celebration that, above all, would reinforce family unity and would demonstrate the solidarity that exists that exists among certain men.

This desire for a merry Christmas, especially for the children, the beloved of the revolution, was so evident that despite our huge shortage of foreign currency, the government decided to allocate a large amount of foreign currency to import toys during Christmas. Several months ago, the construction of wooden toys was promoted through the Corcop [People's Commercial Corporation]. These were to be distributed among (?the children).

However, just as we love children, there are those who hate them. The Interior Ministry's security bodies have just discovered a sinister, evil and unspeakable plot sponsored by the forces supported by U.S. imperialism, which consisted of detonating explosives in several parts of the country, particularly in Managua, exactly on the night which by tradition and for thousands of other reasons is destined to be joyful and to bring families together; Christmas night, on 24 December.

The most repulsive thing about all this is the fact that these explosions were intended to systematically endanger the children's lives, and those responsible for this action were fully aware of what they were doing. I am (?sure) that the black (?sentiments) of the imperialists and their allies are deeply entwined.

They have introduced into the country a certain number of containers covered with the faces of [word indistinct] and Mickey Mouse, which are so familiar to children. Inside these containers there are between 800 grams and 1 kg of C-4 explosive, which has an exceedingly high destructive power. They are shaped like sandwiches inside the container.

We have seized a certain number (?of these devices), but I won't say yet how many. In fact, I won't say the number because of the operation that is currently underway. [words indistinct]. More have been introduced into the country, but they have not been seized yet. This worries us. Two of the persons whose involvement in this activity was discovered have been captured, and two others died during the capture. I won't disclose their names because of the security work that is currently underway.

However, I will talk to you about the C-4 explosive, which is more powerful, much more powerful, than TNT, dynamite or any of the well-known explosives. It is a plastic explosive, more powerful than gunpowder, dynamite or TNT. It is manufactured exclusively in the United States. Its distribution is controlled by the U.S. Government. I repeat, it is a plastic explosive, which can be given any shape. It is not detectable by metal sensors, and its power is 1.5 times greater than TNT, one of the most powerful of the better-known explosives.

Within the framework of their campaign of terror, the organized counterrevolutionaries have already labeled this the bitter Christmas, thus reaffirming the visceral hatred that they feel for our people. Within the framework of this campaign of terror, and despite the fact that during this Christmas season the Interior Ministry combatants will neither sleep nor have fun nor enjoy themselves like all other Nicaraguans because they will remain vigilant, despite our activities, some of these criminal devices may explode tomorrow.

We want to say this clearly, without intending to scare anyone, since I believe that our people are sufficiently mature to understand these things and not allow themselves to be scared. However, although there is no reason for our people to be scared, they must increase their revolutionary vigilance. It is mostly the people who must exert this vigilance. They must concentrate all their efforts in the next few hours to discover any toy or anything else similar to this -- (?some object), etc. The minute they discover anything suspicious, they should notify the closest police station. Meanwhile, they should keep all people away from the site where they found the suspicious device. This device or something similar was used in the explosion at the airport. This same material, which is "controlled" by the U.S. Government, was used to destroy our bridges. [Words indistinct] you have already taken pictures of the capsule. It is a detonating capsule with a safety pin, which once removed [words indistinct]. Once the safety pin is removed, a chemical product moves from here toward the detonating capsule and makes it explode about 10 minutes later.

As you can see, the detonating capsule, the plastic explosive and the container are all manufactured industrially. This is not a homemade product; it is a product manufactured in U.S. explosive factories. This product is not sold in the food stores in Tegucigalpa.

Now, according to the available information, where would these explosives be planted? In buses, supermarkets, on metal shelves, in gasoline stations and in cars. This device can be fitted under a car or anywhere else.

This, in a few words, is the plan. Naturally, we want to prevent any more deaths among our children. Being as innocent as they are, children are more likely to go near a toy. The criminals know this; the imperialists know this; the brains behind this entire campaign of terror -- the bitter Christmas, the Christmas that they want to embitter for us Nicaraguans -- know this very well. It is with the children, therefore, that we must be most careful. We certainly want a peaceful Christmas, but we reiterate that our people are our principal guarantee to defend the children; our organized people -- the revolutionary vigilance, the Sandinist Defense Committee, our organized women. Revolutionary vigilance must be underscored these days to save our children from becoming new victims of counterrevolutionary terror.

Borge News Conference

PA240150 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Tomas Borge, commander of the revolution and minister of the interior, said today that everyone, from Mr Reagan down, knows that there are counterrevolutionary bands in Honduras. According to Borge, the reason for the existence of these bands in Honduran territory is what must be discussed now.

Addressing a news conference for local and foreign newsmen on the subject of peace, Commander Borge reaffirmed to the members of the Honduran Press Association that the Nicaraguan Revolutionary Government has never planned to attack Honduras. On the contrary, he stressed, the Nicaraguan Government has called for dialogue while denouncing the former Somozist guardsmen and their camps in Honduras.

[Begin Borge recording] I will neither take the time, nor will I make you lose yours, to convince you that there are thousands of guardsmen on the other side of the border. There is too much evidence. So perhaps we don't have to discuss that. After all, that is too obvious and everyone, from Mr Reagan down, knows that this is the truth. Everybody knows this.

Perhaps then, what we should discuss is whether the existence of these counterrevolutionary bands in Honduran territory is legitimate. Perhaps this is what we should discuss. The Honduran Foreign Ministry might say: Well, yes, the counterrevolutionary bands exist, but we are entitled to have them there for this or that reason. This is perhaps the only issue left to discuss if we are to be both sensible and logical. So let us discuss then whether the counterrevolutionary bands camped on the other side of their Honduran guardians are there for some legitimate reason, perhaps connected with the defense of Honduras. That might be the reason for their presence there. Or perhaps they are there to prevent the entrance of communism into Honduras. That is yet another reason that they might give us. Or they might say that they don't know what to do with those national guardsmen because they are uncontrollable. Well, they have said something like this a few times.

The truth is that those counterrevolutionary bands do exist on the other side of the border and they receive logistic support from Honduras, they receive medical attention in Honduras, they receive resources in and from Honduras. There is no doubt about this. I don't think it even merits discussion.

Now, do we want a war with Honduras? I don't think too big an effort is needed to prove that we don't want a war with Honduras. What would Nicaragua stand to gain by initiating a war with Honduras? What would Nicaragua gain? I have always wondered why the devil we would open war with Honduras. This country would not stand to gain a single thing from such a war, because we have just been through a very harsh period during which the country was destroyed by a war and there was depletion of capital. The earthquake and the floods are of secondary importance; even more important is the entire situation that Nicaragua has experienced.

We have tried to reconstruct the country, but we have not yet managed to do this. We have barely taken the first steps to reconstruct the country. What would a war bring? We all know from experience what a war means. It would bring more destruction. It would have a cost in both human lives and material goods and it would result in no additional political gains for Nicaragua, none whatsoever. In any event, if a war were to be fought, where would it be fought? It would be fought in Nicaragua, because we are not going to fight in Honduras since we are never going to attack Honduras. So, what do we need a war for? It would be senseless. [end recording]

Commenting on the fact that the purely military aspect does not determine the course of a war, Commander Borge said that the Somozist guardsmen lost the war because they lacked all reason. From a military standpoint, wars are won by neither planes nor tanks, but by the infantry, with the people's support and their historical reason, he stressed. [Begin Borge recording] We can arm hundreds of thousands of Nicaraguans here. We have the military resources to arm them, too. We do not want to deceive anyone. Some may choose to view things from a strictly military standpoint. Since the days of Clausewitz, a war theoretician, it has been a known fact -- and this is something that experience has proven -- that the purely military (?element) does not determine the course of a war. Didn't the National Guard have more weapons than we? But the National Guard lacked both a historical reason and a people. The National Guard had tanks, planes, cannons, and mortars. We began fighting the National Guard with just a few old rifles, then gradually built up our force. But even from a strictly military standpoint, wars are won by the infantry, not by the planes. Planes can destroy a lot, but they don't win wars. I mean to say that from a strictly military standpoint, we have an important force.

But even more important than the rifles, the tanks, the cannons, much more important is the historical reason, the political force and the people's support. That is infinitely more important, since we might have not have the tanks we have -- for we do have tanks -- or we might not have the cannons we have -- for we do have cannons -- or we might not have the mortars, the antiaircraft weapons and all the other things we do have, but even if we did not have them, we would still be invincible because first they would have to break the resistance of an entire people.

We will never invade Honduras. We will never attack Honduras or fight the Honduran people. We would be criminals if we even considered the possibility of invading that territory and dominating the Honduran people by force. Besides, we would lose the war. We would lose that war. Were we to conceive the vague, anti-historical and stupid idea of going to Honduras, invading Honduras and dominating the Honduran people by force, we would lost the war regardless of our military strength, since we would be confronting a people who are defending their country, defending the bones of their ancestors and all those elements that make the peoples invincible. [end recording]

PCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE HOLDS PLENARY SESSION

FL241230 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Chaired by its First Secretary, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the Sixth Plenary Session of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee was held in Havana.

The participants examined the drafts of the economic and social development plan for 1983 and of the state budget for the same year, which will be taken up by the National Assembly of the People's Government in its next session.

During the plenum, the report of the National Committee for Control and Revision for the period July 1981 to July 1982 and the party's budget for 1983 were approved. Likewise, a resolution dealing with the principal tasks aimed at preparing the festivities marking the 30th anniversary of the heroic assault on the Moncada Barracks was also adopted.

The plenum evaluated the proposals made to name replacements to vacant posts in the Council of State. The closing remarks were made by Comrade Fidel Castro.

CASTRO MEETS WITH PUERTO RICO'S BERRIOS

FL231518 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1310 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of Cuba's Communist Party and president of the Council of State and government, has held talks with Ruben Berrios, president of the Puerto Rican Independence Party and vice president of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties, who paid a visit to our country as part of an effort aimed at fostering the broadest possible support among Latin American countries to include the Puerto Rican case as a revised topic in the agenda of the UN General Assembly in 1983.

The meeting was held in a fraternal and friendly atmosphere and served as an opportunity to reiterate Cuba's invariable and firm solidarity with Puerto Rico's independence and its willingness to contribute in every way possible to the advance of that noble cause at the United Nations and other international forums, in accordance with the profound historical ties existing between the peoples of Cuba and Puerto Rico with the Latin American solidarity legacy of Bolivar and Marti.

RAUL CASTRO DECORATES SOVIET OFFICERS

FL251359 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] In Moscow, Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee, last Friday decorated a large number of Soviet military specialists with the Internationalist Combatant Medal, First Class.

The first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers and minister of the FAR stated that in this manner Cuba pays tribute of gratitude to those who, over a period of more than 2 decades and during various phases of FAR development, contributed on orders from the Soviet party and state to the consolidation of the first socialist army in the Western Hemisphere.

Likewise, Raul noted that the generals and high officers receiving the medal in accordance with a resolution of Cuba's Council of State had fulfilled their missions with the exemplary attitude characterizing the people and soldiers of Lenin's heroic fatherland.

Attending the ceremony was Marshal of the Soviet Union Nikolay V. Ogarkov, first deputy minister of defense and chief of the General Staff, and Army Gen Aleksey Yepishev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy.

Present at the ceremony accompanying the FAR minister were Politburo Alternate Members Vilma Espin and Roberto Veiga, president of the Federation of Cuban Women and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, respectively, and other members of the Cuban delegation.

In his speech, Army Gen Raul Castro recalled that since the very distant days when we learned about the scope of proletarian internatioanlism, cooperation and fruitful relations between our respective armed forces have taken deep roots. [These relations are] supported by the victories and dangers they have shared, strengthened by the contacts made by thousands of Soviets who after visiting Cuba made it their own trench and demonstrated by daily example of true sense of being communists.

In closing, Army Gen Raul Castro stated that on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet state, we are pleased to be able to tell you that on the other side of the world there is a small socialist nation which will always be a worthy vanguard of the ideas of Marxism-Leninism, thanks to the decision of its own people and revolutionaries like you, whom we will always recognize as our most valued comrades-in-arms.

In response to Raul's speech and on behalf of those receiving the medals, Army Gen (Ivan Skadov) expressed gratitude for the high distinction conferred on them by Cuba's Council of State. Army General (Skadov) noted the multifaceted and eternal friendship existing between the peoples of Cuba and the Soviet Union and the fraternal ties uniting the parties, governments and armed forces of the two countries.

ALMEIDA ADDRESSES MEETING, RALLY IN ZAMBIA

FL251423 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] This Friday Cuba's Council of State Vice President Juan Almeida made a speech at a special session of the National Council of Zambia's United National Independence Party in response to an invitation by Kenneth Kaunda, head of that political organization and president of the African Republic of Zambia.

Kaunda himself introduced Almeida and stated that in inviting the Cuban vice president to address the special session, he was doing it with the highest admiration for Cuba and its people. We admire, respect and love Fidel Castro because he leads a people's revolution, Kenneth Kaunda stressed, and recalled that Cuba, not only helps Ethiopia and Angola, but has also sent thousands of technicians to the Third World to fight ignorance, corruption and disease.

The Zambian president also recalled with gratitude that Cuba has welcomed thousands of African students on scholarships who are training in Cuban schools in order to serve better their respective fatherlands. The world, Kenneth Kaunda added, needs Fidel Castro because very few men have made the decision to struggle, as he has. In Zambia, the president of that nation proclaimed, Fidel Castro has a genuine friend.

In his well-applauded speech, Juan Almeida recalled that Cuba and Zambia are confronting the vestiges of colonialism on the African Continent. Those vestiges can be seen in the case of Namibia, where the ferocious and brutal South African racist repression tries to maintain a colonial regime despite world repudiation, Almeida said.

He added that the world supports the South-West African People's Organization -- SWAPO -- as the sole legitimate representative of that oppressed nation.

The Cuban vice president had previously participated in a big popular rally held in his honor. Many thousands of Lusaka residents participated in that rally, waving Cuban and Zambian flags and chanting slogans hailing friendship between the two nations. During the meeting, the secretary general of the ruling party, (Hollis Buleva), made a speech in which he noted the similarity between Cuba and Zambia. Both, he said, are struggling against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism and racial discrimination and are members of the Nonaligned Movement.

Juan Almeida expressed gratitude for the warm welcome he has been accorded in Zambia, and recalled that we are living difficult moments, provoked by a U.S. Administration which is trying to crush the Nicaraguan revolution and everything aimed at ending the exploitation of man by man.

INDIAN VICE MINISTER ARRIVES FOR SUMMIT TALKS

FL241520 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] India's Vice Minister K.S. Bajpai arrived last night in this capital to participate in working sessions dealing with preparations for the Seventh Summit Conference of the Nonaligned Movement, which will be held in New Delhi next March.

On arrival at the capital's airport, Bajpai expressed his country's satisfaction with hosting the conference, and noted that the summit's agenda is almost completed inasmuch as the Iraqi officials had worked very hard on its preparation. He referred to Cuba's effectiveness, dedication and special efforts in its role as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement during the past 3 years, and said he attached great importance to the exchange of views with our country.

Finally, he said that contacts with the Cuban authorities will be intense and fruitful, even though he anticipates that conversations with other members of the Nonaligned Movement will be beneficial in the struggle for peace.

Holds Talks with Foreign Minister

FL251327 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry in this capital, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Indian Vice Foreign Minister K.S. Bajpai, who arrived yesterday, have held a round of talks. Among the topics discussed during the meeting were the preparations being made by the Indian Government for the Seventh Nonaligned Movement Summit Conference, scheduled for next March.

Another topic taken up by the two officials was the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau, which will take place in Managua, capital of Nicaragua, in January. Vice Foreign Minister Bajpai showed great interest in this topic.

On arrival in this capital, the Indian official stated that the agenda for the next nonaligned summit is almost completed, and said the exchange of views he is now having in Cuba is most beneficial.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN INDIA

FL240030 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] A Cuban Foreign Ministry delegation today arrived in New Delhi to exchange views with officials of the Indian Foreign Ministry regarding work related to the Seventh Summit of the Nonaligned Movement. The group, headed by (Lazaro More) director of the Foreign Ministry's Nonaligned Movement Department, will discuss matters related to the summit with its Indian colleagues.

INTERIOR MINISTER VALDES' ACTIVITIES IN BULGARIA

Urges Unity at Rally

PA260337 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] Ramiro Valdes, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and Cuban interior minister, said the Bulgarian city of (Velico Garnovo) that Cuba is always willing to fulfill its national and international duties in the struggle to halt imperialism's plans of aggression.

At a mass rally in solidarity with Cuba, Ramiro Valdes added that the U.S. Government is trying to sway the Soviet Union and the socialist community by means of nuclear blackmail, economic aggression and the threat of localized wars.

Valdes added that in a recent speech by Yuriy Andropov, the general secretary of the CPSU, it was clearly stated that the socialist community's desire for peace does not mean that it is willing to fall to its knees, and that it is determined to win if the imperialist aggressors force a new war on the world.

Ramiro Valdes said that the United States has taken humankind back to the cold war era, and he cited, among other examples of this aggressive policy, U.S. aid to the Salvadoran regime, the plans to smother the Nicaraguan revolution and Washington's support for the South African and Israeli regimes.

Now more than ever, Valdes stressed, the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Cuba and the rest of the socialist community, as well as all the progressive forces of the world, must remain united to face the aggressor and to smash his plans.

Decorated in Sofia

FL271354 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Cuban Interior Minister Ramiro Valdes has been decorated in Sofia with a medal celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Georgi Dimitrov. The Cuban interior minister and member of the Politburo was decorated by his Bulgarian counterpart Dimitur Stoyanov. The same decoration was also awarded to Pascual Martinez, Cuban vice minister of the interior. The other members of the Cuban delegation were awarded the medal for the 1,300th anniversary of the foundation of Bulgaria.

Ramiro Valdes said that the medal is a symbol of the great friendship and close cooperation between the communist parties, government and people of the two countries. The Cuban and Bulgarian ministers also signed a cooperation protocol between their two ministries.

Ends 5-Day Visit

FL271401 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1217 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] Sofia -- Cuban Interior Minister Ramiro Valdes today concluded a 5-day visit to Bulgaria. The Cuban minister and his delegation were seen off by Velko Palin, chief of the Military-Administrative Department of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee; Bulgarian Minister of Internal Affairs Dimitur Stoyanov; and Cuban Ambassador to Bulgaria Eustaquio Remedios.

RODRIGUEZ ADDRESSES UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

PA240157 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba's Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and of Ministers, said here in Havana that to know each of the aspects of the socialist political economy is to be prepared to give solutions to the unsolved problems.

The leader addressed the ceremony held to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the School of Economics at the University of Havana. According to him, there are many problems waiting to be solved, not only in the weak Cuban economy, but in much stronger ones. He added that within the framework of today's socialism there is still much research to be done in this field.

Rodriguez, first director of the School of Economics at the University of Havana, congratulated the students of that center of higher learning on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the Federation of University Students, FEU, as well as for their successful congress, which closed Monday.

CUBA, SWITZERLAND SIGN TRADE PROTOCOL

FL241859 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] The Governments of Cuba and Switzerland today signed a protocol extending the trade agreement signed on 30 March 1954. Signing for the Cuban side was Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and for the Swiss Confederation its Ambassador to Cuba, Mr Armin Kamer.

The protocol provides for continued development of trade relations on mutually satisfactory bases over the next 12 months, 1 January to 31 December 1983.

After signing the document, Malmierca and Kamer agreed that the protocol is one more positive step forward for the friendly relations between the Republic of Cuba and the Government of the Swiss Confederation.

GRENADA

REGIME FREES POLITICAL PRISONERS FOR CHRISTMAS

FL232315 Bridgetown CANA in English 2210 GMT 23 Dec 82

[By Alister Hughes]

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Dec 23 CANA -- Grenada's People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) has let out more political prisoners for Christmas, according to informed sources here, but officialdom has been mum on how many and who they are.

Among those confirmed as having been released from Richard Hill Prison are Donville Neckles, Twistleton Patterson (detained 18.12.79) and Stanley Roberts (detained 11.7.81). These were freed on Tuesday, while Lester "Green Face" de Sousa (detained 30.7.79) was let out yesterday together with Dennis Rush (detained 17.3.79).

Details promised by Commissioner of Police Major Ian St Bernard on last week's release of an estimated 58 detainees have not yet been given. Freed political prisoners have been warned "not to associate with any person or group likely to lead them into counter-revolution" and, for this reason, they are reluctant to talk to the press lest they be thought to be giving information the PRG might object to.

No former detainee spoken to has alleged physical torture. Chief complaint is of the food and of a lack of sufficient exercise, only one hour in 24 being allowed out of the cell.

Released prisoners spoke of a regular diet of bread and butter with "thin" powdered milk for breakfast and dinner. The midday meal consists of rice, boiled green bananas ("figs") and, usually, chicken wings. There is dried peas and, sometimes, fish or pig snouts. "What we never had", one ex-detainee said, "is fresh meat except on one occasion, last December, one of the cows maintained by the prison get tied up in its chain and strangled, and they cooked the meat for us."

Of these released, Lester de Sousa is a political activist who has been associated with both the Eric Gairy administration deposed in a coup when the PRG came to power in 1979, and the ruling New Jewel Movement of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. He is the brother of Raymond "Bogo" de Sousa, assistant superintendent of police in the Gairy regime and of Norman de Sousa, Gairy's labour attache in the Grenada Embassy in London.

Both Raymond and Norman are held as political prisoners by the PRG, but an unconfirmed report said Norman was to be released today. Stanley Roberts is the assistant secretary of the Grenada Seamen and Waterfront Workers Union.

JAMAICA

SHEARER DENOUCES SURINAME MILITARY LEADER

FL241714 Bridgetown CANA in English 1645 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 24, CANA -- Jamaica has said that it was outraged by the recent killing in Suriname of people who the authorities there claimed were involved in a plot to overthrow the government at Christmas time. Jamaica also called on Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom) countries not to countenance the seizure of governments in the region to impose political solutions.

"The government of Jamaica is outraged by the recent killings of citizens in Suriname without charge or trial by the government of that country," last night's statement by the foreign minister, Hugh Shearer, said. Suriname's military leaders said that 15 people arrested in connection with the plot were shot dead by the security forces while trying to escape custody, but there are counter claims that the detainees were arbitrarily executed, and that the figure might have been as high as 40.

The foreign minister's statement said that Jamaica viewed with alarm the number of occasions in the Caribbean over the "past years" in which there have been seizures, or attempts at seizure of governments by force to impose political solutions. "We join in calling upon other Caricom states not to countenance this trend within the community," the statement said.

Caricom is a 12-member grouping of English-speaking Caribbean countries, and among them only Grenada, where the Maurice Bishop administration came to power in a 1979 revolution, does not have an elected government. Dominica and Barbados have both weathered alleged coup plots.

Suriname, where military Commander Daysi Bouterse overthrew the Henck Arron government in 1980, has expressed an interest in joining Caricom, and at present is allowed to sit as an observer on some of the community's ministerial committees. It is expected that the latest developments there will hamper its chances of establishing closer relations with the grouping.

Mr Shearer said in his statement that Jamaica hoped that the people of Suriname will be able to find solutions to their problems "through free and democratic procedures."

SEAGA COMMENTS ON U.S. SENATE ACTION ON CBI

FL241815 Bridgetown CANA in English 1745 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 24, CANA -- Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga is disappointed that the U.S. Senate did not pass the trade portion of Washington's Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) before adjourning this week. But he added that he was heartened by President Reagan's promise to make the bill a top priority for early 1983.

"I am naturally disappointed that the CBI legislation did not pass through the Senate where from its inception it had enjoyed strong support," Mr Seaga said last night. "...I am, however, heartened that the President Reagan has determined that the CBI is still one of his priorities and that it will be the first pieces of legislation to be submitted to the Congress next year," he added.

The CBI was originally to have been an aid, trade and investment package to assist Central American and the Caribbean nations. As part of the programme the U.S. Congress earlier this year approved a 350 [million] dollar (U.S.) for direct balance of payments support to a number of countries.

The bill will have to go through all the preliminary stages again if it is proposed when the new Congress convenes in January.

Said the Jamaican prime minister: "While it is obvious that it was not a lack of will that prevented the legislation from being finalised in either the House of Representative or the Senate, it is equally obvious that the U.S. Administration will now have to put greater effort into securing support through all stages of the next Congress so as to ensure that the bill will be successfully passed."

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ARGENTINE-CHILEAN TALKS RECESS FOR YEAR'S END

PY232203 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Argentine-Chilean negotiations over the southern border conflict will be suspended for approximately 1 month. A Vatican source pointed out that to this period are added the 3 months of reduced activities prior to the year-end recess. The negotiations will be resumed after 10 January, once the members of the delegations of the two countries return to Rome.

BRAZILIAN, ARGENTINE OPPOSITION POLITICIANS MEET

PY232224 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Dec 82 p 4

[Text] Sao Paulo (O GLOBO) -- Argentina's Radical Civic Union President Raul Alfonsin yesterday met Ulysses Guimaraes, the national president of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization party -- PMDB. The two leaders discussed the creation of an organization of Latin American democratic parties. During a press conference held at the congress building, Alfonsin explained that communist parties would be excluded from the organization, because one of the organization's goals would be to prevent Latin America from becoming a battlefield for the two superpowers.

The purpose of the organization, which would follow an anti-imperialist policy, would be to fight the economic discrimination of the North against the South, to fight military regimes in Latin America, to help countries which have lost their democracy to restore it, and to contribute to the preservation of democracy in nations which have restored it, Alfonsin said.

He admitted that the meeting of presidents Joao Figueiredo and Reynaldo Bignone may be helpful for Argentina's democratization process. Alfonsin explained that one of the reasons for his contacts with Brazilian opposition leaders was "to exchange views on the economic difficulties that both Brazil and Argentina are facing, and on similar democratization processes."

SURINAME

LEFTISTS CLAIM PRESENCE OF 100 CUBAN ADVISERS

PA260246 Paris AFP in Spanish 0131 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] Bogota, 25 Dec (AFP) -- The Leftist Movement of Suriname [Movimiento Izquierdista de Surinam] revaled here today that a true regime of terror has been established in their country with the help of Cubans.

In a message sent to the private CARACOL radio network, the group condemned last week's "murder" of 24 popular leaders in what it considers the beginning of a "terrible campaign of repression" by the present government. The document states that approximately 1,000 armed militiamen, trained in Cuba and directed by 100 Cuban "advisers," are collaborating in enforcing the severe controls that exist in that nation.

It also reported that the capital, Paramaribo, was completely isolated from abroad with the suspension of communications. It further reported that a number of journalists who dared to criticize the government's excesses have been arrested. The movement made an appeal for international solidarity, especially from Latin America, to put an end to this state of affairs.

URUGUAY

DECREE ORDERS DISMISSAL OF STATE ADVISER

PY241555 Paris AFP in Spanish 1105 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Montevideo, 24 Dec (AFP) -- State adviser Bernardo Barran, who refused to honor the resignation request made by the government a few days ago, has been dismissed from office for causing serious disruptions. This is stated in a government decree that was released today. Barran, who is a 26-year-old lawyer and professor, has stood out lately for his opposition to the civilian-military government. Barran is said to have described the present government as a dictatorship during a radio program.

The government asked Barran to resign as adviser a few days ago. However, he refused to do so, asking the government to explain the reasons for the request. The decree dismissing Borran, which was signed by President Gregorio Alvarez and by the interior and defense ministers, stated that while in office Barran was exclusively the creature of minor political interests and he sought to promote his name before and after the 28 November elections strictly for political purposes.

In the internal elections of the three authorized political parties, Barran headed the list of the Blanco Party's faction that is most opposed to the regime, which won by an ample majority. In conclusion, the decree stated that Barran's attitudes and behavior caused serious disruptions in the State Council's activities, something which is an attack against the positive development of the democratic institutionalization process the government is embarked on.

VENEZUELA

PRESIDENT TO CONTINUE FIGHT FOR ESSEQUIBO

FL241757 Bridgetown CANA in English 1742 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Caracas, Dec 24, CANA-REUTER -- Venezuela's President Luis Herrera Campins said his government will not let up in pursuing its claim on the Essequibo despite the approach of next year's election campaign and announced substantial new investments in the frontier zone.

During a visit to Anacoco Island, on the border with Guyana, Herrera said the claim will be a long process requiring patience. However, he said Venezuela's claim will be supported by peaceful means, supported by right, justice and history.

"We are a stronger and more developed country and I think Anacoco will offer our brothers in the Essequibo many reasons for seeing the advantages in being Venezuelan," he said.

Herrera said his government plans to invest four million bolivars (4.3 bolivars equals one U.S. dollar) on extending the airstrip at Anacoco and improving communications equipment. He said another six million bolivars are being invested on installing new infrastructure in the area.

Anacoco Island, or Ankoko as it is called by the Guyanese, is located in the Cuyuni River which forms the border between the two countries. It was initially shared by Venzuela and Guyana but was occupied by Venezuelan troops in October 1966 and the status quo has remained ever since.

Venezuela's claim on the 53,000 square mile Essequibo is presently deadlocked as a result of inability of both sides to agree a procedure for settlement.